

Rabin sees bright future with Jordan

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who welcomed King Hussein to Israel on Thursday for the first time, foresees a "brighter life" with the Kingdom. "On the shores of the Sea of Galilee, King Hussein and myself will exchange the ratified peace treaties between Jordan and Israel," Mr. Rabin told a meeting of Jewish-American leaders on Wednesday. "With Jordan we have the longest border... the people of Jordan are closer to us geographically than the Egyptians and I hope that as a result of this... many aspects of our life will be better." King Hussein and Rabin are to meet after a ceremony to open the second border crossing between the two countries following the Oct. 26 signing of the peace treaty (see stories below). The bridge between Beit She'an in Israel and Irbid in Jordan spans the river at the site of an old crossing blown up in 1948 and again in the 1967 Middle East war. Hundreds of children are due to greet the King along the road to the Beit Gabriel centre where talks will be held in "the peace room." The exchange of treaties is the final act in the process of making peace.



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Iraq-Kuwait tent people ending protest

KUWAIT (R) — Protesters who camped near southern Iraq's border to demand entry to Kuwait are folding their tents and leaving. U.N. ceasefire observers said on Wednesday, Vassilios Kostov, a spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, said representatives from the camp told the U.N. on Tuesday afternoon they were leaving. The demonstration began more than a month ago, around the time of Iraqi troops movements in the south which set off fears of a repetition of the 1990 invasion of Kuwait and prompted a hasty deployment of Western forces to the region. "They said they were pulling back now, but in the future they might come back to stage another peaceful demonstration," Mr. Kostov said by telephone from the demilitarised zone. "They said they have decided to end their sit-in because they have attracted public attention (to their situation)," he said. "They said they were pulling back now, but in the future they might come back to stage another peaceful demonstration."

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Jordan-Israel treaty constitutionalised

King issues Royal Decree endorsing treaty after Senate passes it

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday issued a Royal Decree ratifying the Jordan-Israel peace treaty which was earlier in the day endorsed by the Upper House of Parliament (the Senate).
The accord, whose ratification documents the King will exchange with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin today, will go into effect as law upon publication in the official gazette.
The treaty received the support of the 32 Senators who attended the session when the vote was taken. Senate Speaker Ahmed Al Awad did not vote in line with a tradition for the speaker not to vote unless to break a tie.
Six senators were absent from the session while former Prime Minister Ahmed Heidar left the meeting before the vote was taken.

for the vote was taken and after giving a speech in which he scathingly criticised the accord and announced his opposition to it.
Parliamentary sources said senators Kamel Al Sharif, Naela Al Rashdan and Abdul Latif Arabiyyat, member of the Islamic Action Front and former speaker of the Lower House, missed the session because they opposed the treaty. Senator Nasserddin Al Assad was absent because of illness while Senators Ashraf Al Kurdi and Abdul Majid Shoman were out of the country. Senator Kurdi faxed the Senate a letter in which he said he endorsed the treaty.
The Senate also endorsed a motion by former Prime Minister Mudar Badran to adopt the recommendations of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House which called on the government to take measures to end the special arrangements

allowing Israeli individuals to invest in the areas of Baqoura and Al Ghamer.
The vote came after 19 deputies took the floor to express their views on the accord which was ratified by the Lower House with a 55-23 majority on Sunday.
In an address to the Senate before the vote was taken, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said the coming task was to amend and change legislation in a way that would guarantee the Kingdom the full benefits of peace.
He said the government will draft the amendments to such legislation and present them to Parliament for ratification.
Saying that time was an important factor in ceasing the economic opportunities that peace would avail, the prime minister said the Kingdom would take all the necessary measures to improve the investment environment. He

said the ratification of the treaty would end the feeling of uncertainty which has led to a slowing of the economy.
The prime minister said the government would work hard to address the problems of poverty and unemployment and would focus on the human element as the most important factor in the economic development process.
"The deliberations that Parliament witnessed (over the treaty) provide a clear evidence that the democratic march in Jordan is moving forward day by day," the prime minister told members of the Upper House.
In their speeches, which lasted for over three hours, the senators who fully supported the treaty reiterated assertions made by deputies that the accord was the best possible deal the Kingdom could have had in light of international and Arab relations and that the accord restores the Kingdom's rights

in land and water.
They also rejected accusations that the Kingdom had deviated from its declared principles on the peace talks, saying the lack of Arab coordination was something that the Kingdom had sought to avoid. They also said the Kingdom had extended all the support it could give to the Palestinians and the Palestinian cause.
But even senators who voted in favour of the accord expressed reservations about some parts in it and urged the government to address them in its talks with Israel.
"This treaty is not a victory as much as it is not a defeat," said former Minister of Justice Taher Hikmat, who added that those who label the treaty as a victory are as far from truth as those who characterise it as a defeat.
"I believe that the choice for reaching the treaty was



The Upper House of Parliament in session on Wednesday (AFP photo)

King and Rabin exchange ratified peace treaties today

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will exchange the ratified copies of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty at a meeting in northern Israel on Thursday, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Wednesday.
Dr. Anani said the King, who on Wednesday issued a Royal Decree approving the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty which was approved by the Lower House of Parliament on Sunday and by the Upper House on Wednesday, will not be attending the opening of the second crossing between Jordan and Israel at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge west of Irbid.
Transport Minister Samir Kassar will inaugurate the crossing at 11 a.m. in a ceremony attended by senior officials from both

sides. It will be the second crossing between the two countries, which opened the first near their ports of Aqaba and Eilat on Aug. 8.
Accompanying the King to the exchange of peace treaties will be His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisors and Dr. Anani.
During the meeting with Mr. Rabin, the second between the two leaders after both of them attended the signing of the treaty last month, the King will also discuss the latest developments, Dr. Anani was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.
The meeting is expected to be held near Lake Tiberias in the north of Israel.
The opening of the northern crossing also signals the beginning of cross-border travel for Jordanians and

Arafat phones King

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestine leader Yasser Arafat telephoned King Hussein on the eve of his visit to Israel Wednesday in an apparent attempt to ease the uneasy ties between them.
Mr. Arafat briefed King Hussein on his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday in the Gaza Strip and on the latest developments in the peace process, said Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Irdeineh.
"Arafat and King Hussein have agreed to continue their contacts over the telephone," Mr. Irdeineh told the Associated Press.
Israelis. The southern crossing, which has been limited to third country nationals, (Continued on page 7)

Crown Prince: Way clear for Jordan's positive role

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday he was looking forward to carrying out his role as a positive economic force in the occupied Arab lands, stressing that Jordan played a vital role in the Middle East.
The prince, at the head of the Fourth Royal Guard Division, Prince Hassan said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 had signalled the start of the Kingdom to implement domestic projects put

on hold because of the no-war no-peace situation prevailing over the past decades.
He said the economic cooperation Jordan aspires to achieve was not based on a Jordanian-Israeli formula, but aimed at regional cooperation and integration.
"The move to hold an Islamic summit in the near future indicated the keenness of some Islamic countries to carry out their role in recognising the status quo in the region," he said.
Prince Hassan said Jordan was one of the first countries

that called for the establishment of a regional economic council, saying that all countries could join the council.
He voiced hope that Syria and Lebanon would have a role in the political track during 1995 and that any regional cooperation formula would not exclude economically and politically important countries like Iran and Syria.
"We are also optimistic naturally because of news affirming demands to lift the boycott imposed on Iraq, and hoping that Iraq will be again rehabilitated to be part of the

international system so as to enable us to talk about the region without any Arab or Islamic exceptions," the Crown Prince said.
Pointing to the important Jordanian role in the region, he said Jordan was still looking forward to carrying out its role in the occupied Arab lands.
"We hope that that take place through concluding the promised Jordanian-Palestinian agreements, and we hope that no precious time be wasted, especially at this stage."

He added: "You might have heard yesterday a statement saying that... the early handover of authority to the self-rule will finish by the end of this month. We hope that this will not be a void, meaning the terrible void which might be filled by Israeli companies and economic institutions rushing to carry out projects in the occupied territories."
He said the postal linkage between Jordan and Israel as provided for by the peace

High urges attacks on Druze soldiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (J.T.) — A branch of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction on Wednesday said peace process was barren because of Palestinian rejection of Israeli Druze soldiers.
A leaflet circulated in Nabatieh, the West Bank's largest town, complained that the soldiers were particularly harsh in their suppression of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.
The leaflet said the Druze soldiers repeatedly proved the peace process is barren, especially the practices that to convince their Israeli masters that they are loyal to them," the leaflet said.

Iraq to formalise Kuwait recognition

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev arrived here Wednesday for talks on Iraq's formal recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty.
Mr. Kozyrev was accompanied by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who announced to Russian leaders in Moscow that Baghdad recognised its neighbour, one of the last conditions for the lifting of U.N. sanctions.
The Russian foreign minister was to meet President Saddam Hussein and attend a special session of parliament on Thursday which would ratify Iraq's decision, officials in Moscow said.
The visit is Mr. Kozyrev's second to Iraq in less than a month. After his last trip in mid-October, he said he had obtained an Iraqi commitment to recognise Kuwait in exchange for Russian help

towards the lifting of U.N. sanctions.
An embargo has been in force since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.
A U.S.-led multinational coalition evicted Iraqi troops seven months later.
Baghdad Radio announced the 250 national assembly members would meet at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT) Thursday, without specifying the agenda of the session.
Moscow said Tuesday Iraq had recognised Kuwait borders in conformity with U.N. demands in a letter from President Saddam to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.
For 75 years Iraq has claimed that Kuwait was part of its own territory. The Iraqi parliament voted the annexation of the emirate after the 1990 invasion.
But the decision to recognise Kuwait has to be ratified

by parliament as well as confirmed by Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and ruling Baath Party.
The United States and its Western allies voiced caution about the initial offer, saying it was not enough to meet United Nations conditions.
The also warned it would not automatically lead to a lifting of the economic sanctions imposed on Baghdad by the United Nations (see page 2).
Victor Postulayuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Department, insisted Wednesday the Iraqi parliament would "proclaim the decision to recognise the sovereignty and the international borders of Kuwait in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolution 833."
Kuwait's representatives to the U.N., Mohammad Abdul

Hassan, said Iraq's announcement of recognition would be "unacceptable" until it was constitutionally confirmed by the Baghdad government.
British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on Wednesday said recognition would be a "step forward," but warned it was "important to study carefully the terms of any declaration."
Mr. Hurd also echoed Washington's caution when he said Baghdad "must comply with all the requirements of U.N. Security Council resolution 833, notably the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction."
France described Iraq's decision to recognise Kuwait as simply a "declaration of intent" which was not enough to constitute a formal recognition.

Plan settlers seek compensation

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Hundreds of Israeli settlers living on the Golan Heights have filed for compensation in the event of Israeli withdrawal under a peace agreement with Syria, a radio reported Wednesday.
A group of Tel Aviv lawyers have drawn up the compensation forms and convinced settlers on the plateau, said. "Many more people living on the Golan ready to move than is truly known if that is the case Israel has to pay for the settlers with Syria," said one of the lawyers.
The government has so far said it is too early to speak of compensation for the 800 Israelis on the Golan.

W. Bank-Gaza divide major factor behind Palestinian scepticism

By Lamis K. Andoni

The following is the second of two articles looking into Palestinian perceptions of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the light of the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. The writer has just returned from a working trip to Gaza and the occupied territories.

AT DAWN, on July 28, three days after the Washington Declaration and nearly three months before the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, Palestinian security men confiscated all issues of the Jerusalem-based pro-Jordanian Al Nahar daily, signalling the escalation of tension between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Jordan over perceived competing for influence in the West Bank.
Ironically, the act did not take place in the West Bank but at the Erez crossing, the entrance to the Gaza Strip which has become by now the seat of the PNA, the Palestinian gov-

ernment. The measure drew condemnations, mostly by Palestinians who viewed it as an alarmingly flagrant violation of freedom of the press and an uncalculated overreaction to the Washington Declaration.
In retrospect, that act was more indicative not just of official perception of Jordan's role but also of the mentality of "siege" that has been evolving in Gaza due to the Israeli-imposed separation of the Strip from the rest of the occupied territories and the world outside.
When this reporter asked a top Palestinian security official in Gaza about Al Nahar, the surprise was not

that he defended the action by rather in the way he phrased his explanation.
"It was necessary at the time. You journalists did not like it but we felt we had to do it. It was not just a message to Jordan but more so to Israel," the official said, explaining that Israel was then, and still is, controlling the movement of people, goods and newspapers from and into the Strip.
During that period, the Israelis were making it a point to tell the Palestinians which publications were allowed into Gaza, and that coincided with the Washington Declaration that acknowledged Jordan's special role in Jerusalem.
According to that account, the banning of Al Nahar served many purposes even though it was obvious that the Palestinian security did not take free-

Republicans wrench control of Congress

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Republicans snatched control of Congress for the first time in 40 years Tuesday, clouding President Bill Clinton's legislative programme for the next two years and his chances for reelection in 1996.
The opposition party rode a wave of discontent with Mr. Clinton and Washington in general to overturn a 77-seat Democratic edge and capture the 435-member House of Representatives where it last held sway in 1954.
The Republicans won at least 225 seats, a gain of 47 and seven more than the number needed for control. They also led in five of the 11 races still undecided Wednesday.
The Republican landslide gave them eight more seats in the 100-member Senate for a 52-48 majority, their first in the upper house since 1986. The party also took a majority of the 50 state Governorships for the first time since 1970.
All of this was bad news for Mr. Clinton, who has been struggling against sagging popularity ratings since taking the presidency in 1992 to end 12 years of Republican rule in the White House.
Republican Senate leader Bob Dole — who now takes over as majority leader — called the vote for all the House seats and 35 in the Senate a referendum on Mr. Clinton's "big government, big taxes (and) big regulation."
"We have heard the American people, they have voted for change. They have voted for Republicans," he said on CNN, adding that he was to call Mr. Clinton in the morn-

ing to offer his cooperation in the next Congress.
The White House, worried a heavily Republican Congress could derail Mr. Clinton's health reform legislation and sideline his appointees in the second half of his term, vowed to work with the new leadership.
"The president will be reaching out to the Republicans for bipartisanship and their support," White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said, bowing to the voters' verdict on Mr. Clinton's first two years in office.
"The president has tried to implement change," he said. "We obviously have not done it fast enough and I think we need to do better in trying to produce change, particularly here in Washington."
But White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers made it clear the administration would not take the blame for Congress' failings under Republican leadership. "The burden of government is now on them," she said.
The combative Newt Gingrich, a doctrinaire conservative sure to be installed as House speaker in January, (Continued on page 7)

and Mr. Dole, the incoming Senate majority leader, will share power with Mr. Clinton.
Both said Wednesday they are ready to work with the new Democratic minority, which also spread to statehouses. Republicans have a majority of governorships for the first time in 24 years.
Mr. Gingrich said he saw his new responsibilities as "a very serious and solemn obligation." But he still intends to enforce the strict tenets of his Reaganesque "contract with America" to reduce taxes and shrink the federal government's role.
Mr. Dole said the election as nothing less than "a vote of no confidence in Mr. Clinton's agenda."
In the Senate, republicans won a 52-48 majority — a gain of eight seats. In one of the closest races, Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein withstood the \$27 million challenge of political neophyte and millionaire Michael Huffington in California.
Republicans captured 52 previously Democratic

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Security net tightened around Diana

LONDON (AFP) — British security forces have tightened the net around Princess Diana as she prepares to visit the United States. The Princess is expected to arrive in New York on Thursday for a three-day visit. Security forces are expected to be on high alert during her stay.

Exercise better than TV for bad moods

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new study suggests that exercise is a better way to combat bad moods than watching television. The study found that people who exercised for 30 minutes a day had fewer negative emotions than those who watched TV for the same amount of time.

China smashes porno ring, arrests 60

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese police have smashed a large pornography ring in the city of Shanghai, arresting 60 people. The ring was reportedly involved in the production and distribution of illegal pornographic materials.

up

Several small news items and snippets are listed under the heading 'up', including mentions of local events and community news.

hite

More small news items and snippets are listed under the heading 'hite', covering various local topics.

Kids wreck export cars in rampage

TEL AVIV (AP) — A group of Israeli children have wrecked several export cars in a rampage, according to police. The incident occurred in a public area, and the children were reportedly acting out of anger.

Jerusalem's status must be changed, King Hassan says

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has said the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, claimed by Israelis and Palestinians as their capital, must be changed but it would be unrealistic for Muslims to expect to dominate it politically.

In an interview with the Saudi television network MBC aired on Tuesday, the king said it would be "illusory to recover the whole of Jerusalem and dominate it politically."

"I do not think Jerusalem will recover the status it had before the occupation" by Israel in the 1967 war when it was administered by Jordan, he said in the interview published on Wednesday by the official news agency MAP.

He said the issue would be high on the agenda at a summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to be held in Casablanca on Dec. 13-14. The king is chairman of the organisation's Jerusalem Committee set up to "liberate" the Holy City.

He said the summit would make "a great effort of imagination and persuasion to convince ourselves and others to find a realistic solution that conforms with our religion and political equity."

"If Jerusalem is recovered it must be partly under Palestinian sovereignty. Hence the city will not become what it was before. On the other hand, what will be our share of Jerusalem sovereignty? Half? A Third? The whole?"

"I think it would be illusory to recover the whole of Jerusalem to dominate it politically in the framework of a new sovereignty. This is the reality... it will be better for everyone to be realistic and present... a dossier taking into account an acceptable minimum for the Arabs and Muslims."

The king said he was embarrassed at an economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa in Casablanca last week when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reacted forcefully to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's claim to the city.

He said Mr. Rabin's reaction affirming that Jerusalem would always be Israel's capital was "rather disproportionate. I think the Israeli prime minister was probably more impulsive than necessary. I was embarrassed because I was the host and chairman."

The Islamic summit King Hassan will host in Casablanca "will give us the chance to define a vision over what is required, and over what is possible," he said.

Mr. Rabin has made clear that if there will be negotiations with the Palestinians over East Jerusalem, they will only be negotiations to give the Palestinians "administrative" control over holy sites.

Israeli "sovereignty" over the "united city" would never be relinquished, Mr. Rabin said.

In other parts of the long interview, King Hassan said a "new programme of action for the Arab League was needed because the body's raison d'être — the conflict with Israel — was dissipating."

"The Arab League existed because of the Arab-Israeli conflict and today that conflict is getting diluted until it eventually ends," he said.

League assails Israel
The Arab League on Tuesday condemned Israel's division of Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque into a mosque and a synagogue which it said was "provocation" for Muslims everywhere.

Iran and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah movement also hit out at the division of the Hebron complex.

The Arab League said it "strongly condemns the division by Israel of the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron between Muslims and Jews, as well as the grant to the Jews of the largest part."

The split was "provocation for Muslims the world over and a flagrant violation of all international conventions," the Cairo-based grouping said in a statement.

Israel on Monday reopened the complex eight months after the massacre there of more than 30 worshippers by an Israeli settler.

Gaza-W. Bank divide

(Continued from page 1)

autonomous area of Jericho, but the movement of even the PNA officials is so restricted that some, especially those who cannot leave the Strip, feel that they are less in control of the political movement in the West Bank than when they were in Tunis.

Thus, when the Washington Declaration was signed on July 25 it looked like Jordan was getting a leverage greater than that exercised by the PNA, especially that Israel remained in total control of the West Bank. In the minds of some Palestinian officials and many ordinary Palestinians, this implied that Israel could allow and prefer Jordanian influence while imposing restrictions on the PNA and procrastinating over the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank.

Politically speaking, these interpretations were summed up, in the mind of some Palestinian officials and others to mean the following — Obstacles are deliberately put in the PNA's way to ensure its failure and to make the Palestinian people turn to Jordan.

These conclusions, right or wrong, created fears bordering on panic among many PNA officials, and even Palestinians, particularly in Gaza — where the notion of a special historic bond with Jordan does not mean as much as it does in the West Bank in the first place.

Combined with the failure to receive the promised international funds, the acceleration of peace talks between Israel and Jordan suddenly became very threatening to Arafat.

Critics of the terms of the Oslo and Cairo agreements between Israel and the PLO cite the ensuing conflict between Jordan and the PNA as a direct result of the flawed agreements that ignored coordination. But that did not mean that even opponents of the Oslo-Cairo agreements did not oppose any Jordanian step that is viewed to undercut Palestinian sovereignty — as the general strike called for by Fateh and the Palestinian opposition groups on the day of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty showed.

The issue of Jerusalem thus became the catalyst and symbol of what had become a Jordanian-Palestinian rift. Many PNA officials realised after the Washington Declaration that failure to reach agreement with Jordan and putting off the status of East Jerusalem was a grave mistake.

Their reference to Jerusalem and Jordan's custodianship of the Islamic holy shrine there was translated into two important new perceived realities in Gaza: First, that leaving East Jerusalem out gave Jordan a door or a window to reassert its role and to demand the right to make its own decisions about the city's future part of its agreements with other Arab countries.

The obvious counter argument to this without a reason to justify the rift, the administration could have only given a good reason and that was over the Muslim shrine.

Some Palestinian leaders in the West Bank, especially those critical of Mr. Arafat, believe that the controversy over East Jerusalem was deliberately exaggerated to deflect attention from the PNA's failure to run Palestinian affairs. Others who resent the Washington Declaration also share this assessment of Mr. Arafat's reaction but do not underestimate the implication of practically lessening the Palestinian role in East Jerusalem in the interim period when the issue was not supposed to be raised.

To most Palestinians in the West Bank, the issue is not the religious custody but the main question for them is whether the Arabs and the PNA in particular will be able to retain the Arab identity of Jerusalem. This is the main concern that seems to dominate people's minds, especially when East Jerusalem remains the nerve of Palestinian life in the West Bank, and to a lesser but still significant extent in the Gaza Strip.

Consequently, most Palestinian did not seem to be drawn into the ensuing conflict over the religious custody of the holy shrines, important as they indeed are. The most repeated questions, however, are how far Jordan is willing to go in playing a role in the political battle over Palestinian sovereignty, or at least Arab sovereignty, in general over Jerusalem, and how serious and capable the PNA is in ensuring that Jerusalem will retain its identity?

In other words, what people seem to be most concerned about in the Jordanian-Palestinian rift is how tense, and deteriorating, relationship between the two will affect the prospects of ending Israeli occupation. In the final analysis, as the disillusionment in the peace process sinks in, Palestinians are not wondering as much as who would rule the West Bank as much as they are over whether the occupation will ever end.

pledge and has insisted that Iraq's Revolutionary Council and its parliament make the recognition official.

The Russian Foreign Ministry announcement said Iraq was ready to make its pledge formal.

It said Mr. Yeltsin had directed Mr. Kozirev to go to Baghdad to negotiate Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. It was to fly there on Wednesday.

Mr. Johnson said the United States knew in advance that Mr. Aziz would meet with Mr. Kozirev in Moscow. The U.S. official declined to say whether the meeting or its result had U.S. approval.

"Mr. Johnson emphasised that Iraq must comply with all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions before sanctions against that nation are modified."

Noting that the United States was aware of the Moscow meeting and had "met with the Russians in advance" of it, Mr. Johnson stressed that recognition of the border is not all that Iraq must do to comply with the U.N. resolutions.

"Iraq must comply fully with all relevant Security Council resolutions," which include its "obligation to recognise Kuwait's border with Iraq," as delineated by the United Nations in 1993, Mr. Johnson said.

However, "border recognition would meet only one of a number of requirements which Iraq has not complied and would not in itself establish Iraq's peaceful intentions," which were called into question by its October "provocation" (the troop buildup near the Kuwait border), the spokesman said.

"We would oppose any U.N. Security Council action which might lead Iraq to conclude that the Security Council might consider modifying the sanctions before Iraq has met its obligations," Mr. Johnson emphasised.

Thousands of Turks in this northern steel town on Tuesday to protest against government plans to close its factory, a sign of the problems Turkey faces implementing a tough economic austerity programme.

Workers from the Karabuk iron and steel factory — whose furnaces belch flames and smoke 24 hours a day — lined the streets while shopkeepers closed their stores and students took the day off to demand the government revoke its decision.

Karabuk, Turkey's first steel factory and once the pride of its economic development plans, has become a huge loss-making venture adding to the bloated budget deficit.

A World Bank financed study said the factory lost \$1.1 billion since 1989, and it projects this will rise to \$4 billion by the year-end.

Karabuk is set to be the first of many state-owned firms Prime Minister Tansu Ciller will sell or close as part of an International Monetary Fund-backed plan to reduce triple-digit inflation and cut costs.

The battle to save the factory will be a test of the power of the country's trade unions against a government intent on cutting its losses.

"This is the first step of the first round between Karabuk and the government, and it will be a sign to workers and unions throughout the country that they must seize their factories," Metin Turker, head of the Ozelek-Is Steel Union told Reuters.

Union officials say they are not against privatising the factory, although they concede potential investors would show little interest in a giant, loss-making steel factory.

But they argue that Karabuk has not turned a profit.

Egypt executes 1, puts 18 militants on trial

CAIRO (AP) — A Muslim extremist convicted of plotting to overthrow the government was executed Wednesday, and 18 suspected militants accused of killing a German tourist and two Egyptians went on trial before a military court.

Also Wednesday, suspected Muslim radicals shot and killed a government guard as he arrived home after working the overnight shift. The attack occurred in the village of Al Tabout near the town of Mallawi, which has been a centre of fundamentalist activity. Mallawi is 260 kilometres south of Cairo.

Ahmad Mahmoud Mohammad Goma was put to death by hanging in a prison in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. He was sentenced to death Sept. 20 by a military court. His plea for clemency was rejected Tuesday.

The charges against Goma were never given in details. His trial was held behind closed doors except for the opening and closing sessions. He was convicted of plotting against the government and belonging to an illegal organisation.

At the time of his sentencing, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said he had been given military training at camps in Yemen and Sudan and was financed by unspecified "foreign sources."

Goma's death brings to 43 the number of defendants executed during a nearly three-year campaign of violence by Islamic militants aimed at replacing Egypt's secular government with Islamic rule. All but two were sentenced by military courts.

President Hosni Mubarak started referring Muslim extremist cases to such courts early last year to ensure speedy trials. The move has been criticised by Egyptian and foreign human rights organisations.

Goma was among 11 men convicted in a case involving a gang of activists from the town of Mahmoudiya, which is near Alexandria. Another defendant also was sentenced to death, but remains in absentia, but in the case of a death penalty, the defendant is retried once he is arrested.

Nine other defendants received prison terms of up to 15 years in the same case. All are charged in connection with a fatal attack in the Red Sea resort of Hurgada Sept. 27 that was aimed at striking at Egypt's tourism industry: one of the country's main foreign currency earners. Another German and an Egyptian were wounded in the shooting on a crowded street.

Tourism already has been seriously affected by the militants' campaign to bring down the government. More than 500 people, mostly police and suspected radicals, have died in the confrontation. Seven foreign tourists were among the victims.

In the Hurgada shooting, six of the defendants are at large.

Turks protest planned steel factory closing

KARABUK, Turkey (R) — Thousands of Turks in this northern steel town on Tuesday to protest against government plans to close its factory, a sign of the problems Turkey faces implementing a tough economic austerity programme.

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The battle to save the factory will be a test of the power of the country's trade unions against a government intent on cutting its losses.

"This is the first step of the first round between Karabuk and the government, and it will be a sign to workers and unions throughout the country that they must seize their factories," Metin Turker, head of the Ozelek-Is Steel Union told Reuters.

Union officials say they are not against privatising the factory, although they concede potential investors would show little interest in a giant, loss-making steel factory.

But they argue that Karabuk has not turned a profit.

Turks protest planned steel factory closing

KARABUK, Turkey (R) — Thousands of Turks in this northern steel town on Tuesday to protest against government plans to close its factory, a sign of the problems Turkey faces implementing a tough economic austerity programme.

Workers from the Karabuk iron and steel factory — whose furnaces belch flames and smoke 24 hours a day — lined the streets while shopkeepers closed their stores and students took the day off to demand the government revoke its decision.

Karabuk, Turkey's first steel factory and once the pride of its economic development plans, has become a huge loss-making venture adding to the bloated budget deficit.

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PLO no longer interested in constituents in Lebanon, refugees say

Shah, a member of the PLO, said that the PLO is no longer interested in its constituents in Lebanon, refugees say.

The Lebanese government has made self-sufficiency among Palestinian basicly impossible by decreeing that Palestinians be banned from working in 72 occupations, including garbage collection. This year the Lebanese authorities granted just over 100 work permits to the Palestinian refugee population (conservatively estimated to be 370,000) in all of Lebanon, according to U.N. figures.

Without work permits the population has no chance of becoming self-sufficient or of improving their living conditions. Yet this issue is not being addressed by either the Lebanese or Syrian governments, which has considerable influence in Lebanon politics; nor has the international community made any visible effort to alleviate the situation.

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Red Crescent Society (PRCS) he says that typhoid is a "problem" in both Nahr Al Bared as well as in the nearby Baddawi camp.

There are many communicable diseases here — typhoid, pneumonia and diarrhoea," says Dr. Mahmoud, who runs the main PRCS hospital in Nahr Al Bared. "The dense housing situation, the bad environmental conditions and the lack of finances for treatment and services is affecting peoples health."

According to the international observers here we don't have these medical and health problems," but we do and they are turning a blind eye to the real situation here."

According to Dr. Mahmoud, the international agencies once supportive of medical services for Palestinians in Lebanon are now going elsewhere with their support leaving the Palestinians in Lebanon stranded to fend for themselves.

The problem is multi-fold, the PLO is giving only limited support to the PRCS hospitals, which are officially headed by Yasser Arafat's brother Fathi. The PLO is no longer interested in the Palestinians in Lebanon — except for the staunch Fateh loyalists in the camps of South Lebanon it has stopped supporting the hospitals and clinics financially," declares the Palestinian doctor.

The Syrian branch of the PRCS, which is based in Damascus pays the bills. The average salary at the hospital between \$65 and \$100.

"Basically we are being forgotten here by our own leadership," says Dr. Mahmoud, who says that the camp's finances are being forwarded by Damascus-based groups which are themselves in financial straits.

But the Palestinian leadership is just one of several responsible for the plight of the some 60,000 Palestinian refugees who live in northern Lebanon.

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Senators debate peace treaty

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are excerpts of speeches by Upper House of Parliament members during a session Wednesday at which senators debated the endorsement of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

Jamal Nasser

"Consider the peace treaty as the best possible deal under the present circumstances. The treaty will ensure tremendous benefits and secure the restoration of Jordanian territory and water resources in addition to establishing peace which is expected to bring prosperity to Jordan's citizens."

"I would like to refer to the fact that the treaty refers to the dividing line between Jordan and the West Bank as a mere administrative line, and that the treaty does not impose on the rights of the West Bank which has been occupied since 1967 as contained in Annex 1 Clause (b) — International Boundaries — Item 7."

"The provisions for the Baqura (Naharin) district and Al Ghanar are legally sound. They provide a clear recognition of Jordan's sovereignty over the two areas. The provisions are better than in other similar treaties like that which provide British mandate in Cyprus or the United States rights in Panama for example."

"This is my view, and I believe many professors of law agree with me in this respect."

Amad Al Aqaileh

"At the beginning I stress that my position on the treaty is not a political one. It is a legal one and will not be an emotional, improvised or impulsive position, but a realistic, logical and well-studied one, stemming from personal convictions that were based on the following:

1. Absolute confidence in the leader of the march who, through his wisdom, experience and far-sightedness, has guided Jordan and its loyal people over 42 years and achieved a cultural development that we pride ourselves on. He was always the heart of the nation and its people, never letting it down or shirking his duty or neglecting his responsibilities, no matter how great, and never sacrificing any of its interests."

2. Full conviction that the king and members of the royal family, starting in Madrid and ending at Amman, and all those who contributed to the signing of the treaty... are honorable, genuine citizens who are loyal to their King, homeland and people, and are determined to preserve the interests of Jordan and the great Arab world. And all have exerted distinguished efforts for the good of the nation, and they have tolerated a lot because of the intransigence of the Israeli negotiating teams... Full conviction that this treaty is the most the Jordanians could achieve after a lot of suffering, enduring

and patience in the context of a saddening Arab reality, an unjust naval siege and a clear foreign bias in favour of Israel."

4. There were threats endangering Jordan as a nation and its economy, security and existence. We were exposed to an unjust siege and pressures to pay debts, the Jordanian dinar was devalued, the selling of our arms or spare parts to our brave army was banned and Jordan was pressured to accept less than what the treaty gave us."

The choices before us were limited and the choice of peace between Jordan and Israel despite all that was said about it was the best option for us under the circumstances."

5. What we achieved will not have any negative impact on the interests of our Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese brethren, will not be an infringement on their national rights and will not constitute an obstacle to the development of their negotiations. But I am convinced that what was achieved will be a good reason for them to achieve their objectives."

6. I am fully convinced that sound intellect, sublime values, our tolerant religion and social norms will play a great role in preventing us from melting in the Israeli system or from being influenced by what we fear... it is certain that we, as a people and as individuals, are able to stop any Israeli influence that does not conform to our dogma, values, traditions, history, civilisation and norms."

Consequently, and because politics is "the art of the possible" as politicians say, and from a realistic point of view I approve the peace treaty draft law and I will not add any remarks to its text because the deputies and senators preceding me did not leave anything else to talk about, not to mention the fact that the reports of the Foreign Relations Committees of the Lower and Upper Houses and the reply of the prime minister at the Lower House have answered most of my queries and questions."

"I will nevertheless point out to some issues that I hope the kind government will take into consideration when implementing the treaty:

1. To prepare and lay down sound and well-studied plans to make peace work for our benefit, to guarantee the interests of the country and the citizens and to ensure that Jordan will not become gate for Israel to penetrate Arab or non-Arab countries and that its role still will not be limited to becoming a place for tourism, comfort, picnicking and vacationing."

2. That as of now, foundations be laid to protect our economy from any Israeli domination in the near or far future, and that the government work to provide more protection for the Jordanian industries and that our companies and industrial institutions work on addressing shortcomings and tackling shortages wherever they exist so that we improve the level of our productions to be able

to compete with Israeli industries that will invade our markets and which will compete with our products in foreign markets."

3. That the government, through all its capabilities and with determination, work to make peace reflect positively on citizens who are patiently waiting to reap the fruits of peace and to benefit from its repercussions, hoping that this will be in the form of drops in prices, reducing unemployment and compensations for losses incurred by the Jordanian cities, directly or indirectly, because of trade limitations imposed by Israel on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip because of the Gulf crisis or for other reasons."

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber (former foreign minister)

"Peace needs courage exceeding the one needed in battle."

This debate gives credence to the rationality, the moderation and responsibility of the country's leadership and offers evidence of democracy and respect of people's views."

Basing my support for the treaty on the principle that one should place national interests above all other considerations, I believe this treaty has restored for Jordan its central role, enhanced its efforts at the pan-Arab level and restored the usurped territory and rights and demarcated the borders with Israel."

The treaty provides pledges on both sides to refrain from the use of weapons, especially mass destruction weapons, against one another and reasserted Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

But there is need for Jordan to guard against what could be cultural invasion and economic hegemony from Israel. However, the treaty has caused the Zionist ideology to retreat and emptied it of its contents and ended its dreams of expansion which constituted the real danger to the Arabs."

Dr. Kamel Shahr

"Our Arab Nation now stands tall among the nations of the earth as it looks towards the future with confidence and hope. This nation has deep roots and one that cannot be obliterated."

A nation with great past achievements like ours can only aspire to a better future and should not fear anything, especially as it continues to accomplish very positive achievements."

It is strange to hear people expressing fear of Israel in times of peace. This was justified when we were at war because Israel is supported by major world powers that provide it with modern arms and technology. But in times of peace there can be no justification for any fear except when we are not equipped with national awareness and strengthened by democracy and democratic institutions that can safeguard the rights of all citizens."

Openness can be a source

of power and enrichment, but retreating can only reflect impotence and weakness."

The world has become a small village and retreating harms one. If we cannot deal with Israel's challenge, how can we withstand the challenges of other nations?"

With this treaty we have recovered our lands and secured our rights in water and peace under King Hussein's wise leadership."

Seetan Madhi

After having read the peace treaty, out of my knowledge of the Arab status quo and since I am one of those who had the honour to serve in the Armed Forces, I feel it is inevitable that I should participate in the era of peace as I did in times of war."

Mr. speaker, allow me to review Jordan's stand on pan-Arab issues and its honourable stands in all stages through which the Arab Nation had passed."

One, Jordan and its leadership were closely linked with all Arab causes; the borders, Arab withdrawals and the intransigence of our brethren did not prevent Jordan from interacting with all developments on the Arab political arena."

Two, as a result of the geographic, historical, social, and political aspects, Jordan was closely linked to the Palestinian question and was the party most influenced by the Arab-Israeli conflict over the past stages."

Third, Jordan has never shirked its Arab duties and always supported Arab causes despite its convictions at many times."

Four, Jordan never refrained from supporting any Arab decision, whatever its source was and no matter what its goal was, despite its doubts at many times about these decisions, as was the case in the 1967 war."

Five, coming back to proposals to find a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict after 1967, we find that Jordan has agreed to the American proposals — or what is called then Rogers proposals to find a political solution to the Palestinian cause after Egypt agreed to it. And Jordan's approval of the proposals was only after the consent of the Arab leaders was secured."

Six, when the Madrid formula was proposed for a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jordan went to the conference after a unanimous Arab approval. It did not attend as a representative of all the Arab states, these states went to the conference to serve their national interests. Jordan also provided the legitimate political umbrella for the Palestinians to enable them to shoulder their national and pan-Arab responsibilities."

Seven, Jordan was one of the first Arab countries calling for joint coordination among all Arab delegations involved in negotiations with Israel. The Kingdom was often surprised by the Arab deviation from the agreed-upon coordination, and even

ASTA endorses Jordan as major tourist attraction

Jordan, Israel begin first strides of peace treaty, says Adwan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) Wednesday endorsed Jordan as a major tourist attraction for American tourists, a move that is expected to substantially increase the number of visitors to the country, according to Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan.

In Lisbon, Portugal, for a joint Jordanian-Israeli breakfast seminar at ASTA's 64th congress, Dr. Adwan, in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, said that at the moment half a million American tourists visit Israel and only 30,000 the Kingdom. With the signing of the peace treaty and the intended cooperation between the ministries of tourism of Jordan and Israel, a boom in visitors to both countries is expected, said Dr. Adwan.

Accompanied by Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism Ghassan Mufleh and by the tourism committee that took part in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations, the minister addressed the seminar where 600 ASTA guests were present and at which former American President George Bush was also invited.

Dr. Adwan, in his address, calling the congress "the vehicle through which we have begun implementing the first strides of the peace treaty that has

been achieved between our two countries," stressed in his phone conversation his "delight" at being able to attend such an "exciting, successful" meeting where "emotional speeches" stand witness to "two former enemies in war becoming partners in peace."

"Our region has suffered so much for far too long. We are looking forward to creating a new Middle East where the energies of the people of Israel, the people of Jordan and people of the region will be utilised to make cooperation replace confrontation, where construction and development will replace destruction of war, where prosperity and the well-being of our peoples will replace the suffering of conflict, where human interaction, understanding and respect for each other will prevail," reads the minister's address.

Tourism, through the human interaction and cultural exchange it provides, is a main promoter of peace, said Dr. Adwan while mentioning the new strategies adopted for further developing the tourism industry in Jordan."

Among these are the construction of new hotels and resthouses throughout the Kingdom, plans to restore and protect the cultural, historic and religious sites, measures taken to ensure that tourism will not develop at the expense of the preservation of the archaeological sites and to protect the environment."

On the Jordanian-Israeli level, Dr. Adwan said, the ministries of tourism are coordinating to promote the region and encourage travellers to visit the two countries."

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram was quoted by a Reuter report as saying that both countries are cooperating to develop a "Red Sea Riviera" by improving entertainment facilities along the coast linking the resorts of Taba in Egypt, Eilat in Israel and Aqaba in Jordan."

"We are planning the lowest park on earth on the Dead Sea," Mr. Baram was quoted as saying on the sidelines of the conference.

As measures he mentioned efforts to ease movements of tourists between the two countries — with the opening of a new border crossing between Aqaba and Eilat in August and a second crossing, in the north, officially inaugurated today — marketing the newly combined destinations in North America, launching of "peace trips" early next year in order to familiarise and educate the U.S. travel industry about the "new destination," developing joint promotional vehicles for tourist destinations (brochures, posters), developing joint projects in the context of regional cooperation, hosting joint seminars and participating in trade shows throughout North America and targeting religious and ethnic segments within the tour-

ism market. Complementing Dr. Adwan's address, the Israeli minister said businessmen are discussing plans to build hotels and resorts along the Dead Sea coast, especially along the less developed Jordanian side."

"Next year we expect to fly to Seoul, Casablanca, Amman," he said, adding that the peace treaty with Jordan is expected to lead to a dramatic increase in tourists visiting Israel, a development that will reflect positively on Jordanian tourism as well."

Dr. Adwan said he expected that in the short term there would be more Israelis visiting Jordan than Jordanians visiting Israel."

Both ministers said Petra would be a star attraction for Israeli visitors, but they also mentioned the visa regulations as important issues to resolve on both sides."

Tourists from both countries can only secure visas to visit each other's country by applying through travel agencies who pass the requests on to the respective interior ministries for approval, said Dr. Adwan."

"We are in the process of trying to ease all regulations and restrictions for the free movement of tourists. But you know this is difficult at this stage. It will take some time. We will iron out any snags and any problems that arise," he was quoted by Reuter as saying.

Majali, Bahraini envoy discuss region

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday said that Jordan was working towards restoring solidarity among Arab countries and strives to bolster its relations with all Arabs including the people of the Gulf states."

Speaking at a meeting in his office with visiting Bahraini Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Al Matrou, the prime minister said Jordan appreciates Bahrain's position in support of Jordan."

He said that in light of the rapid changes at the political and economic levels around the world, the Arabs have no alternative but to re-establish solidarity between them."

Mr. Matrou expressed his pleasure at visiting Jordan, and conveyed to Dr. Majali greetings from the Bahraini government and people."

Business group hail Cabinet decision to allow private sector industrial cities

AMMAN (Petra) — Fakhri Bilbeisi, vice chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) said the Cabinet decision earlier this week to allow the private sector to establish its own industrial cities in the country was a positive step towards stimulating trade and industry."

In a statement Wednesday, Mr. Bilbeisi said the move will give an impetus to the private sector to play a more aggressive role in promoting development."

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, in a letter to JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa, had conveyed the government's decision on the proposed industrial cities, adding that the Council of Ministers decided to set up a committee comprising representatives of the JBA, the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) and the Jordanian Investment Corporation (JIC), to study a draft law on this subject and work out a mechanism for its implementation."

The JBA has been seeking government approval for private industrial estates for a long time in order to give Arab and foreign investors more incentives to invest in Jordan, said Mr. Bilbeisi."

For his part, Abdullah Wirayat, head of the Sahab Industrial City Investors Committee, described the government move as very positive, and one that was expected to help boost industry and diversify manufactured products for local and foreign markets."

Jazz pianist Sophia Domancich to play in one-night-only concert

by Jean-Claude Elias

AMMAN — French pianist Sophia Domancich is coming to play in Jordan with her trio. Domancich is a triple challenge: she is a woman, she is young and she plays jazz in a place where she has the leadership."

The one-night concert will take place on Thursday Nov. 10 at the Amman Marriott Hotel which is also sponsoring the event in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre in Amman."

With a reputation she built over years with leading groups such as the Trio Rogers for instance, her ensemble features Rogers on upright bass

and Tony Levin on drums."

Ms. Domancich plays a classy, sophisticated but uncomplicated form of jazz, with much finesse."

For those interested in academic records, Ms. Domancich was awarded the first prize for piano and chamber music from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris."

As a pioneer jazzwoman, Ms. Domancich belongs to the daring group of performers who, like Brazilian virtuoso Eliane Elias, have won the admiration and respect of jazz lovers and fellow jazz musicians alike."

With her known acrobatic variations of rhythms, tempi and harmonies, Ms. Domancich is sure to keep the audience listening."

WHAT'S GOING ON

JAZZ CONCERT

Jazz concert by "Sophia Domancich Trio" at the Marriott Hotel on Thursday at 8:30 p.m.


EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salama at Alla Art Gallery.


Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.

Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al Fann.




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Sri Lankans vote to elect president amid violence

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankans voted Wednesday in a "battle of the windows" presidential election with sporadic violence ending a campaign that saw the original opposition candidate and 53 of his supporters assassinated by a suicide bomber.

Police said 180 poll-related violent incidents were reported on the troubled island on election day.

Voters were choosing between Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and Sirima Disanayake of the United National Party (UNP), who were vying for the most powerful post in the nation of 18 million people.

Both the candidates are widows who lost their husbands to political assassins. Mrs. Disanayake on Oct. 24 when Ganiini Disanayake, the original opposition candidate, was killed along with 53 others by a suicide bomber at a campaign rally.

Police said two UNP supporters were stabbed to death.

Another UNP agent was slashed with a knife, local police said.

Four people were killed

and 15 injured in weekend clashes.

Nearly 11 million people were eligible to vote in the election, which will determine how a bloody 11-year civil war is ended and set constitutional change for the island.

Witnesses said voter turnout Wednesday was lower than during general elections in mid-August. Election officials said between 50 to 60 per cent of the island's voters had voted before noon.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, whose husband, film-star and politician Vijaya, was killed by leftists in 1988, is widely expected to win the poll, with the help of Tamil and Muslim minority voters.

Security on the island was stepped up for the poll. The government ordered more than 40,000 police onto special duty to avert between supporters of rival parties.

The government said it would impose a night curfew after polling ended Wednesday. The curfew will be lifted for a few hours Thursday morning and then re-imposed till Friday morning, a Defence Ministry statement

said. It said convoys and processions were banned.

Both candidates have promised peace, but have sharply differed on how to end the bloody campaign for an independent homeland by the minority Tamil community. More than 30,000 people have been killed in the revolt.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, 49, who led her People's Alliance to victory in the August parliamentary elections to end the UNP's 17 years of rule, has begun talks with the revolt-leading Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

She has promised to scrap the executive presidency by July, 1995, and restore parliament's supremacy, saying a powerful presidency is open to abuse.

Mrs. Disanayake wants the Tigers to lay down their arms before peace talks can begin. She supports the creation of a figurehead presidency.

A confident Kumaratunga said Wednesday she expected to defeat her rival by at least a million votes.

"We have already won. All the trends show that we will get a one million majority," Mr. Kumaratunga told Reu-

ters after casting her ballot at Attanagalle, her hometown.

Mrs. Kumaratunga arrived in a helicopter amid tight security to be cheered by huge crowds. She was met by her mother, former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike.

A. Saumyatilake, a bank official casting his vote at the prime minister's polling booth, said Mrs. Kumaratunga was moving correctly in her dealings with the Tigers.

"She is taking the right steps to end the war, which is the biggest problem in the country," he said.

Mr. Rabim, a Muslim businessman in Colombo, said he was voting for Mrs. Disanayake, a 51-year-old lawyer, because the UNP had done a lot for the business community during its 17 years of rule.

"The policies of the People's Alliance are somewhat leftwing," he said.

A hundred thousand government officials were staffing 10,000 polling stations across the island, except in the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, where the Tigers have said they will not allow polling.



Election official marks the finger of Sri Lanka's opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe as he voted at the presidential election that was marred by sporadic violence across the island (AFP photo)

Modigliani fetches \$5.94m

NEW YORK (AFP) — Amedeo Modigliani's 1919 portrait of Jeanne Hébuterne fetched \$5.94 million at Sotheby's auction here, almost a million dollar over its presale estimate. Of the 46 lots up for auction, six were sold within presale estimates, 32 were sold below presale estimates, and 17 went unsold. "It wasn't our best sale. Many people adopted a waiting attitude and there were very few inheritances among the sellers," Sotheby's New York director Alexander Apis said. Most of the works of art moved by the auction house came from divorce proceedings and estate sales. Miro's large canvas *Woman in The Night* sold for \$3 million below its presale estimate of between \$3.5 million and \$4 million. In 1986 it had fetched \$2.5 million. A small pen-and-ink sketch by Vincent Van Gogh, *Wheat Field With Grass*, was sold within its presale estimate for \$2.1 million, but far below the record \$7 million paid for another Van Gogh sketch in 1990.

Cheat on your spouse? Go to jail

BOGOTA (AFP) — Colombians who are unfaithful to their spouses from now on can be thrown into jail, the Supreme Court ruled, saying that infidelity sets a bad example for children. The high court ruling also said husbands or wives who mistreat their spouse, engage in violent behavior in front of their children, or show signs of alcoholism can be sentenced to one to four years in jail for violating their children's rights. One of the main responsibilities of parents, the court ruled, is to maintain behavior worthy of their children's imitation.

Marilyn Monroe museum to be opened

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A filmmaker who recently bought the house where actress Marilyn Monroe lived the final years of her life said he planned to open a museum in the former star's residence. "It is an important piece of Hollywood history," said Michael Ritchie who bought the four-bedroom home in September for an undisclosed price. Mr. Ritchie denied reports that he planned to demolish the house, saying: "Marilyn's body was found in the bedroom in 1962 in what a coroner ruled was probably suicide caused by an overdose of sleeping pills. She was 36."

Neeson hates 'fascist' L.A.

LONDON (AP) — Los Angeles is a fascist place, Liam Neeson says where people ask you not to smoke and look askance at drinkers. The Northern Ireland-born actor says in the December issue of *Vanity Fair* that he and wife actress Natasha Richardson plan to settle in New York partly because he hates L.A. so passionately. "(L.A.) is such a fascist place," says the 41-year-old, who was nominated for an Oscar this year for his performance in *Schindler's List*. "If you were to go into a bar, it's like 'little problem there?'" Neeson tells the magazine. "And the anti-smoking brigade, the inquisitiveness of it." It was enough to drive him to New York which he describes as "an elastic band that's continually being turned, but it's never going to snap." Richardson, 31, is the daughter of actress Vanessa Redgrave and the late film director Tony Richardson.

Farmers bury themselves to protest eviction bid

LIMA (AFP) — At least 10 farmers buried themselves up to the neck in a lettuce field near here Tuesday to protest what they said was an illegal bid to evict them from their land, police said. "We are prepared to die before they evict us. We will even bury our families along with us," Carla Cabrera told reporters as a friend heaped earth around her body. Ms. Cabrera claimed that a group of crooked businessmen helped by corrupt officials were trying to evict her and some 50 other farmers from a 10-hectare (25-acre) plot of land 10 kilometers east of here. They purchased three years ago from the Ministry of Agriculture. She said the farmers had legal papers to back their claim to the land.

Doctors hold risky forum on torture in China

BEIJING (R) — Chinese doctors have held an unprecedented and politically risky forum on the torture of prisoners, a problem that human rights groups say plagues Chinese prisons and police stations.

The three-day forum called "doctors, ethics and torture" was convened by a group of medical ethicists at elite Beijing Medical University and led by doctors from the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Copenhagen.

The seminar, also attended by political scientists and doctors and administrators from the ministries of Justice, Public Security and Health, closed Wednesday.

Participants said it was not only the first of its kind but also a risky one in a country where a main aim of its ideologically charged prison system is to break the spirit of political dissidents, long branded "counter revolutionaries."

"This work is obviously very sensitive politically, but it is also necessary," said a Beijing clinical psychologist who, like most Chinese in attendance, requested anonymity.

Inge Genefke, a psychiatrist and veteran anti-torture activist who co-founded the council, showed graphic slides of torture injuries and treatments.

She praised China for adopting the U.N. Convention Against Torture and passing a national compensation law six months ago that explicitly mandates financial redress for anyone tortured by police, judicial officials or prison workers.

"We are not attacking anyone or any country. That is for Amnesty International to do — and rightly so," Dr. Genefke said. "What we are attacking is the phenomenon of torture."

She urged the doctors to take a professional, non-political approach, saying the most effective check against torture was promotion of education and information.

Her colleague, psychotherapist June Lopez of Philippines University, recalled the dangers she faced during a decade of treating dissidents tortured by the Marcos government.

Beijing bridges at comparisons with dictatorial regimes and generally rejects allegations by human rights groups that torture is used widely by police to extract confessions and by prison wardens in the name of "reform through education."

But one Chinese ethicist told the forum that "feudal and dictatorial ideas" still influence some Chinese prisons and urged doctors to "unite to eliminate violence and torture."

China has tentatively welcomed the International Committee of the Red Cross to inspect its prisons, but has balked at allowing unmonitored visits with prisoners at any facility.

Bangladesh police battles opposition protesters

DHAKA (R) — Police used tear gas and batons to try to halt thousands of opposition protesters marching on the office of Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday, witnesses said.

They said at least nine people were hurt. The protesters exploded home-made bombs and fought with security men, one witness told Reuters.

More violence was expected as opposition leader Sheikh Hasina vowed to lead a "massive push" through police barricades, despite a government ban on the planned protest.

A diplomat said he saw a running battle in the city's Mahakhali area. "I had to pull out from the scene," he said.

Violence was also reported from two other areas where activists from Mrs. Nasina's Awami league and other parties gathered.

Authorities earlier deployed nearly 4,000 police and paramilitary troops in the capital as the feuding government opposition prepared for a showdown.

Police imposed a ban on rallies, demonstrations and sit-ins outside the prime minister's office and barricaded all roads leading to the building.

Mrs. Hasina told her followers they must defy the

ban.

"We have already defied Section 144 imposed by police, which forbids gathering of more than five persons," said senior Awami leader Tofayel Ahmad after nearly 50 opposition members of parliament pushed through a barbed-wire barricade.

Opposition parties have boycotted parliament since February and staged rallies and strikes to press their demands. The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has rejected the demands as unconstitutional.

The government has told Commonwealth envoy Sir Niall Stephen, who is trying to mediate the crisis, that it would make no further compromises after proposing the creation of an interim administration headed by Mrs. Khaleda.

The opposition told Sir Niall Tuesday it had rejected the government's offer and that it could not hold off much longer on a decision to resign en masse from parliament. Commonwealth sources told reporters.

Mr. Ahmad earlier said all 156 opposition members would resign unless the government accepted demands for stepping down and holding elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

RENAMO gains political clout in Mozambique polls

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique's first multi-party elections have launched the former rebel RENAMO movement as a major political force, partial results indicate.

But results reported so far also suggest the nation of 16 million people is divided along regional lines that reflect a mix of political and ethnic loyalties.

With one-third the ballots counted from the Oct. 27-29 poll, President Joaquim Chissano and his FRELIMO party which has ruled since 1975 independence look set for victory.

But the government's support has been mainly restricted to the south and north. RENAMO, which ended its 16-year insurrection with 1992 peace accords, mustered substantial support in its traditional central strongholds.

"We have to do something better in the next five years if we want to stay in office," one cabinet minister, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

"This is a yellow card for FRELIMO," said the normally pro-FRELIMO Domingo newspaper, using a soccer metaphor.

An anti-government Maputo weekly, Savana, noted that RENAMO, once derided as a band of terrorists by many Mozambicans and accused by Western governments of wartime atrocities, is now the second most powerful political force in the land.

Most analysts say that final results expected to be announced this weekend will give Mr. Chissano a clear victory in the presidential race over his main rival, RENAMO leader Afonso Dhakama.

But FRELIMO is expected to claim only a narrow win for the 250-seat National Assembly, prompting unease divisions after the elections.

The worst fears for many Mozambicans are that Dhakama will not accept defeat gracefully, or that geographical divisions will create further problems.

"I just want peace. Everyone should accept the election results," said Lina Banzo, a Maputo resident voicing a common concern.

When FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) was formed in 1962 it was based on a dream of national unity against Portuguese colonial rule. At the time it won independence in 1975 after a 10-year guerrilla struggle, the then Marxist party had huge support.

After independence, political power was divided between north and south, with the centre left largely in the cold.

RENAMO (Mozambique National Resistance) was backed in the 1970s by Ian Smith's Rhodesian Intelligence Service to counter FRELIMO's support for Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwean guerrillas. When the Smith regime collapsed and Rhodesia became independent Zimbabwe in 1980, apartheid South Africa supplied RENAMO with weapons and training.

The south, which provided much of the FRELIMO leadership in its independence struggle, and the far north, which provided many of the fighters, are still squarely behind FRELIMO.

But the central region where RENAMO commanded its greatest wartime support tried to vote FRELIMO out of power.

Aristide extends olive branch to military

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Broadening his call for national reconciliation, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide appealed for cooperation from the soldiers who ousted him three years ago.

"I want to say again to all Haitian military officers, soldiers and interim police officers that I have come to bring you peace," Mr. Aristide said at the inauguration Tuesday of his cabinet.

The military has been accused of condoning 3,000 political murders after Mr. Aristide fled into exile following a September 1991 coup. Many soldiers had threatened to kill Mr. Aristide if he returned.

U.S. troops who restored Mr. Aristide to power last month have encountered little resistance, but there are still reports of continued violence in rural areas. Haitian Radio said the deputy mayor of the central Haitian town of Mirebalais, who was hacked to death with machetes last week, had received constant death threats.

There was also a report Tuesday that assailants poured gasoline on the car of Jackson Joannis, former head of the police anti-gang unit that was blamed for many atrocities under the military.

International police monitors intervened before they could set the car on fire.

The inauguration of Mr. Aristide's new ministers took place at the gleaming white National Palace, with hundreds of Haitians gawking from outside the green iron gates.

Japanese politics caught in storm of change

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan faces a major shakeup of its electoral system, which has plunged the country's political parties into near panic as they try to form new alliances to survive.

Sweeping reforms, aimed at combating corruption, will change the way legislators are elected to Japan's powerful lower house.

Expected to inject a strong dose of proportional representation into the voting system, the reforms also call for the reconfiguration of districts to dilute the mix of money and politics that parties now use to get the vote out.

After 38 years of being governed by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Japan has since August 1993 seen its usually staid political system tumble into crisis under the rule of fragile coalitions. The country has had four different prime ministers in the last 15 months.

The changes brought by electoral reform could lead to a more stable bi-partisan system, but observers are guarded about when and how the long-promised changes will be implemented.

"The situation is very confusing. Nobody can say what Japan's political landscape will look like next year," says Mitsuru Uchida, a political

U.N. report: Cambodian army is corrupt

SYDNEY (AP) — Cambodia's army is corrupt and virtually as brutal and abusive of human rights as the Khmer Rouge, reports said Monday, quoting a draft U.N. report.

Summary executions are frequent and corruption is rampant, involving gambling,

prostitution and extortion, according to a copy of the report leaked to news media. It will be presented to the U.N. General Assembly.

The report comes at a sensitive time for the Cambodian government, which is asking the United States, France, Australia and other

nations for military aid so it can step up its battle against the Khmer Rouge.

The guerrilla group led by Pol Pot ruled Cambodia in 1975-1978. During that time, more than 1 million of its 8 million people died from Khmer Rouge executions, famine and civil unrest.

Clinton resumes New Democrat label in wake of Republican takeover

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Faced with the sobering prospect of a Republican-controlled Congress, President Bill Clinton prepared Wednesday to take up the centrist "New Democrat" label he campaigned under two years ago.

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta denied that the Republican's historic takeover of both the House and the Senate was a "vote against Clinton," but exit polls showed many Americans were motivated by disapproval for the president.

Mr. Clinton had also put himself on the front lines of the race for all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 Senate seats, making the vote a referendum on his two years in office following what he called 12 years of Republican neglect under Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Even before the final results put the Republicans in charge, Mr. Panetta came forward with Mr. Clinton's pledge to cooperate with the new leadership, a promise quickly echoed by Republican Senate leader Bob Dole who now takes over as majority leader.

Mr. Panetta said Mr. Clinton's first task at hand was to heed the message voters issued with what he called a vote against Washington and

against those in power. Two years ago, Mr. Clinton sought to overcome voters' concerns about his liberal leanings and portrayed himself as a "New Democrat" who would toe the center line.

He adopted positions generally held by Republicans, namely reforming the welfare system and the political machine — a sore-point among voters eager to oust incumbents.

But the first two years of his term have been dominated by his effort to overhaul the country's health care system.

With prompting from his wife Hillary, Mr. Clinton topped his agenda with medical coverage for all Americans — a move which could put the industry in the hands of the government.

Republicans have used that possibility to convince voters that Mr. Clinton is a "liberal," a word they generally use to describe advocates of higher taxes, more government interference and big spending.

While confirming that Mr. Clinton is still committed to health care reform, Mr. Panetta clearly indicated that the issue would have to be put on the back burner, saying that in light of Tuesday's election results any reform would have to be "gradual."

In its place, Mr. Panetta said reforming the political system — namely in the areas of campaign financing and ties between politicians and interest groups — would top the White House agenda.

Welfare reform, which is aimed at preventing the poor from receiving benefits indefinitely, will also be placed high on the list.

But even a move to the center cannot guarantee reelection for Mr. Clinton in 1996.

In addition to the blow delivered by congressional Republicans, the party captured a majority of the governorships for the first time since 1970, taking over states such as New York, California and Texas which will be key in the presidential vote.

Their rout of 10 Democrats and successful hold on their previous territory now puts them in control of all the states — with the exception of Florida — which have the highest number of electors.

Clinton can also look forward to having the banking committee in the hands of New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who has vowed to have a much closer look into the first couple's dealings in the failed Whitewater land deal.

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Staircase of confidence

WITH THE ratification process of the peace treaty almost completed in the wake of its endorsement by the Senate yesterday, the provisions of the accord should become law very soon. This is legally true even prior to making the necessary changes to existing legislations. Under the Jordanian Constitution and on the basis of legal stare decisis established by the supreme court of the land, treaties that Jordan enters into enjoy superiority over national laws should there be a discrepancy between them. This is where we stand now. The whole country is bound by the terms of the agreement including those who are opposed to it and voted against it whether in Parliament or outside it. Those who violate what has been agreed to between the two countries could very well find themselves engaged in unlawful acts, being subject to prosecution or litigation in a court of law. We doubt, however, that a legal response would offer the most viable or effective panacea to the colossal gap that unhappily exists between the supporters and opponents of the treaty. There must be better ways to address the current polarisation within the Jordanian society on the future relations between the two countries even though there is a clear majority in support of the treaty. In the final analysis we would need a multi-faceted approach to reintegrate the opposition into the Jordanian mainstream on this score.

This challenge may entail the need to launch campaigns on the educational and mass media levels. Government institutions, schools, universities, the press and the electronic media would have to shoulder a big responsibility towards addressing the concerns of the rejectionists or at least bridging partially the wide gap that separates the minority's views from those of the majority. Above all those on the fringe and the sidelines need to see and feel the impact of the peace dividends especially when there is still a serious economic stagnation in the country and unemployment is nowhere being stamped out. It is a well-known fact that the onset of peace with Israel has yet to bear economic fruits for the majority of our people and before a fundamental change in attitude by Israel towards the Palestinians and the occupation of Arab lands in general takes place. The Israelis ought to know that shedding the mentality of the occupier that they still have in abundance is the biggest step that they can take towards converting the sceptics and soothing the fears of the rejectionists.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Wednesday warmly welcomed Iraq's decision to recognise Kuwait and the two countries common border as demarcated by the United Nations. The decision, announced in Moscow where the Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz has been meeting with the Russian leadership, is a very significant step towards ending tension in the Gulf region, said the paper. By recognising Kuwait, Baghdad has become fully eligible for the termination of the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in 1990, noted the daily. Iraq's decision ought to receive welcome from various Arab countries including Kuwait because it marks the end for Kuwait's fear of possible Iraqi invasions in the future. The next step is for Iraq to end its confrontation with the Western world which has rallied behind Kuwait and the other Arab countries that have embargoed and the starving of its people, advised that paper. The paper said the positive Iraqi step is bound to remove major stumbling blocks in the path of solidarity among Arab countries.

TAREQ MASSARWEH, a columnist for Al Ra'i daily commented Wednesday that he did not agree with the pessimists and the opponents of the peace treaty with Israel in their belief that Jordan was bound to fall under Israeli hegemony politically and economically. Peace is the choice of people who can make it either cool or warm and peace by no means prevent Jordan and the other Arab countries from forging a common market to counter the Israeli economic influence, Masarweh said. The peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 came to put an end to the state of war so that security can prevail, and to ensure the return of Jordan's rights in territory and water. Neither does the treaty mean an end to Jordan's economic ills, unemployment and poverty as many optimists like to believe. Masarweh said Arabs should remember their brothers in Palestinian lands occupied since 1948, who, despite overwhelming Israeli influence, have remained true to their affiliation to the Arab Nation. The peace treaty, he concluded, is a mere document which paves the way for either side to open or close the door for further steps towards cooperation depending on each side's own interests.

The View from Academia

Hearsay and opinion forming in Arab society

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majlounbeh

GENERALLY, hearsay plays a very crucial but pernicious role in forming not only individual viewpoints, opinions and positions throughout the Arab society but also (at times) convictions and beliefs. Most people, the unlearned as much as the learned, form and pass judgement about a wide variety of matters not on the basis of first-hand information or facts but on the basis of what they hear or hear about second hand. This is unfortunate indeed, for most often the truth regarding so many essential issues can get extremely blurred and distorted.

Take the following examples. The other day I was talking to a class of mine about the importance of evidence in argumentation. By way of illustrating the point, I asked how many of them had read the text of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Fifty students were present. Predictably (for I have become accustomed to such surprises), not one single person had read it. I then tried to determine how much they knew about it, and how accurate what they knew was; after all, the press and the media had been saying quite a lot about it. Again, I found out that what they knew did not amount to much. One student, and his response is both quite telling and typical, remarked: "The agreement says something about Jordanian water, land and Jerusalem. What precisely does it say about them? It says that they will be returned to Jordan." There was no awareness of specifics, details and facts.

Take also people's knowledge of religion. Ask people from the various walks of life in the Arab World about how much they actually know of the Koran, Hadith, the major schools of religious thought, the classical, authoritative theological studies, the precise events of Islamic history, etc., you find that it is the meagre little. Most of what they believe in and cherish comes from what the parents, the peers, the neighbours, the teachers, the sheikhs and the elders say. The sources themselves are either remarkably

marginalised or entirely ignored. Very little is remembered from the Koranic verses and the Prophet's sayings they knew by heart when they were in school.

Ample awareness of these and other equally significant subjects is a must. As for the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, our history is being made in light of it, our destiny is being moulded and our life is being drastically changed. Much is riding on our apt understanding and appreciation of it, on our ability to live up to the challenges it poses and our determination to realise the countless opportunities that lie in store for us in the aftermath of its ratification. Similarly, Islam is a way of life for most of us in the Arab World, both those who are observant and those who are not. Many of our fundamental decisions, much of our vision, as well as our ultimate advancement and progress stem directly from our sense of it. The more deeply we understand it, the more radically we benefit from it; the less we understand, the less we benefit.

Clearly, ignorance of matters of such calibre is a problem indeed. But it is a problem also to be unaware of the ignorance and to pretend to be knowledgeable. I am hundred per cent sure that had I asked the students about their opinion of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, they would not have hesitated one second to tell me what they think. They would have made judgement, argued, insisted and claimed to know. Ask most people in our part of the world about Islam's position on this or that matter, they would tell you without hesitation, again. This is "halal" (permitted) and this is "haram" (not permitted), they would say with all confidence in the world.

I have had countless encounters with students who argued about the theme of a poem or story they have not read, with colleagues who reject a political step they know nothing about, and with fellow countrymen who condemn

something on the basis of a Hadith whose words they have forgotten, whose source they can't remember, and whose validity they have not checked. This is very peculiar, very strange, very perverse, but it is very real and very common in this part of the globe.

To a great extent, we blame this regrettable situation on upbringing and education. Frankly, many parents and teachers in the Arab World set bad examples to the growing generations which emulate what they see in front of them. Very little critical thinking occurs in our society, very little fact-finding is valued and appreciated. Most often, those we adore and idolise (parents, teachers, big brothers, writers, leaders, etc.) are those who are talkative, who exaggerate, who embellish, who poetise, who speak with a loud voice and not those who are soft and quiet, precise, sharp, factual, rational, objective, etc.

But we also blame the press and the media. Once in a blue moon, there a newspaper or a magazine edition which presents balanced views on a given subject: the pros and the cons. Most of the time, however, much of the coverage tends to be extremely one-sided, emotional, or factual. Many of our editorials are either love poems or satires. This is dangerous because people can get easily affected or infected, especially the younger generation. I do not know, if there is a nation on earth more addicted to television than the Arab nation; at the same time, I do not know if there are TV programmes as mediocre as those presented by TV stations in the Arab World.

This all has got to stop. We have to seriously reconsider the way we bring up and educate the young. We have to emphasise critical thinking, facts, rational discourse, balanced views, well-thought out opinions. And we will have to be extremely careful as to those whom we chose as role models.

America's acid media corrodes authority

By Kishore Mahbubani

SINGAPORE — Many Asians are puzzled that in the face of growing evidence of improving social conditions in East Asia and disintegrating conditions in North America, Americans have made no public move to learn from Asia. This hesitancy suggests a resistance, and that resistance is most evident in the minds of those who decide what information should be poured into American minds: the media. Until the media become convinced that something fundamentally wrong is happening in American society and that Asians may be able to help, the American public will remain ignorant of Asia and what it can offer.

Despite Allan Bloom's widely cited but little read book, *The Closing of the American Mind*, most Americans will be astonished by the suggestion that there could be such a thing as a closed American mind. The term is surely an oxymoron in the American context. This is a result of the absolute conviction in the United States that the American media will always open windows for American minds. Hence the belief that the American media are doing no harm to American society. Across the Pacific Ocean there is, however, a strong perception that the irresponsibility and unchecked power of the American media may be responsible in part for America's deteriorating social fabric.

There is today a gross mismatch of perceptions when a Western journalist arrives in East Asia. Subconsciously, he sees himself as the representative of a superior civilisation, a white knight out to battle the dark forces of oppression that linger in Asia. By contrast, most East Asians would view him either as a dishonest or a misguided person, who is determined consciously or subconsciously to prove to his readers that East Asia, for all its merits, has not and cannot possibly reach the levels attained by the West. Certainly, the claims that a Western journalist's presence can only be good for East Asia is highly suspect.

In their writings, both on the domestic and external scene, most journalists assume a posture of being paragons of wisdom and virtue. Yet it is clear that many have double standards. For example, American journalists do not believe in the Christian rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." From their exposures of public figures from Gary Hart to Bill Clinton, there has developed an honourable tradition among journalists that the infidelities of a politician are public property, to be exposed in

every detail. But those who participate in this tradition do not feel themselves bound by the Christian injunction. "Let him who has not sinned cast the first stone."

To the best of my knowledge, based on my limited stay in Washington DC, the average level of infidelities seemed about the same, whether in Congress or in the press corps. Power is a great aphrodisiac. Both politicians and journalists have equal difficulty resisting the temptations that flow their way. Yet in the informal pecking order worked out in Washington (as in any other tribal society), many a senior journalist enjoys far more effective power than a congressman, the actions of one group are deemed immoral and subject to public scrutiny, while those of the other are deemed private matters.

The same disparity applies to personal finances. Any aspiring politician, even the few underdogs who may have entered politics to do a service to the nation, has to declare every penny of his or her financial worth. Yet Washington journalists, many of whom enjoy far greater incomes, do not feel any moral obligation to declare all their financial worth; nor

Artilla the Hun. A key assumption of the American constitution is that unchecked power leads to irresponsibility. It is therefore puzzling that many American journalists assume their unchecked power will do no fundamental harm.

But American journalism may have done harm to its society in many different ways: The unbridled free press may well serve as the opium of society. This statement is not quite as outrageous as Marx's dictum that religion is the opiate of the masses; but it will probably be dismissed as quickly as Marx's statement was when he first uttered it. The American media pride themselves on the ability of their investigative journalism to uncover the real truth behind the stories put out by government, big business, and other major institutions. They could never stomach the proposition that they could serve as the opium of American society. But they may well have done so.

In the last 20 years, two parallel developments have occurred. First, American journalism has become much more aggressive. John F. Kennedy was the last U.S. president to be treated with kid gloves; his

automatically lead to a better society. This assumption is both dangerously simplistic and flawed. As far back as the 19th century, Max Weber warned that good intentions do not necessarily lead to good results. As he said, "it is not true that good can follow only from evil, but that often the opposite is true. Anyone who fails to see this is, indeed, a political infant." In short, ferocious unchecked effort by the American media to uncover the truth need not result in a well-ordered society. Metaphorically speaking, they may have the same effect as acid thrown on established physical structures — it corrodes; it does not build.

The inability of many American journalists to see this result perhaps reveals a certain flaw in the American mind: the inability to accept paradoxical truths. Throughout the cold war, the well-intentioned argued in favour of disarmament as the way to end the cold war. But it was the rapid arms buildup of the Reagan era that ended it instead, following an old adage: "To make peace, prepare for war." The domestic corollary for this, as Asian experience suggests, is that to have more freedom in society, one should sometimes increase the boundaries not of freedom but of order and discipline.

One final, crucial point about the role of the media. In arguing against the unchecked and unchecked power of the U.S. media, I am not suggesting that the Soviet *Pravda* or the Chinese *People's Daily* are the alternative choices. Far from it. Media that are known to be dishonest have no credibility — state censorship is not the answer. But given the crucial role that the media play in molding minds, it is absurd that control should be left solely in the hands of the media moguls, whose main concerns are personal profit, not social good. The media need a watchdog, with teeth which will regularly judge whether the media promote the good of society or not. One can argue at length about the nature and powers of such a watchdog, but a society without one — as in the U.S. — is letting loose a powerful force that can, wittingly or unwittingly, damage society. This notion that the U.S. media, left on their own, will naturally do good should not be regarded as an *a priori* truth. It needs to be tested against experience.

The writer is permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore. He served as Singapore's representative to the United Nations from 1984-1989. The article is reprinted from *New Perspectives Quarterly*.

Will Yugoslav, Rwanda killers face justice?

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

LONDON — The first international war crimes tribunal since World War II opens next week to examine the horrors in former Yugoslavia and the United Nations is expected to vote soon on setting up a similar body for Rwanda.

One simple question hangs over the proceedings: Will those responsible for butchery, ethnic cleansing, rape and torture be punished for their crimes?

Experts and diplomats say the wheels of justice will turn slowly, bogged down in political, legal and practical problems.

"It's highly likely that some people will be brought to justice, but it may be only a fraction of those who committed crimes," Professor James Crawford, a member of the U.N. International Law Commission, told Reuters.

"At the beginning at least, it will have symbolic value."

Setting up ad hoc war crimes tribunals like the one in the Hague which deals with Yugoslavia creates delicate legal problems, requiring countries to adapt their systems so that suspects can be delivered for trial to a U.N. body.

The United Nations set up the Yugoslav court last year. But there have been hitches over financing and delays in finding a chief prosecutor. When the Hague tribunal holds its first public hearing next week, no one will appear in the dock.

Instead, Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone will embark on a complex legal process to bring Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb, into the court from Germany, where he has been held since February.

The tribunal has no power to try suspects in their absence, or to force them to attend hearings. It depends on states surrendering people arrested on their territory.

The United Nations is now discussing the possibility of setting up a permanent international court which might help cut delays and streamline procedures in future. But a decision on establishing such a court is some way off.

For now, diplomats concede that political issues may also prevent or at least delay some trials.

Some of the most senior figures suspected of involvement in war crimes in former Yugoslavia are currently engaged in talks with the United Nations on a possible end to the conflict. The United States has, for example, named Serbian President Slobodan

Milosevic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander, Ratko Mladic, as potential defendants.

Mr. Milosevic is now widely seen as a key figure in striking a peace deal. No one is prepared so far to indict the others.

This gap between reality and political realities has led critics to charge that the war crimes tribunal is little more than a cynical exercise which will achieve virtually nothing other than to ease the consciences of Western governments.

In the case of Rwanda, where up to one million people died in ethnic slaughter this year, the problems are also political.

Attempts to set up a Rwandan war crimes tribunal, which may be linked to the court in the Hague, have been delayed because of objections to its format from Kigali.

The Rwandan government wants a say in appointing the judges and for the court to be able to impose the death penalty — something firmly opposed by the United Nations.

Public expectations of rapid retribution, with frequent reference to the Nuremberg trials that condemned Nazi war criminals after World War II, are unlikely to be met.

But experts say comparisons with Nuremberg are unfair.

Nazi Germany was occupied by Allied armies, making it easier to round up war criminals and seize incriminating documents.

In former Yugoslavia, the war still rages and there is no such occupying force, only U.N. peacekeepers. While the Rwandan conflict is over, it may prove difficult to track down the chief perpetrators of massacres as the country is still in chaos.

Relief agencies warned on Thursday they might pull out of volatile Rwandan refugee camps in eastern Zaire unless action was taken to break a rule of terror there by Hutu leaders.

Many of those people are suspected of involvement in the butchering of Tutsis, the minority ethnic group in the country.

Justice for war criminals in Rwanda and former Yugoslavia may take years to come — but at least there is no statute of limitations for what they have done.

"As long as the sword of Damocles is over their head, these people will face justice at some point," said Christopher Hall, legal adviser to the human rights group Amnesty International.

"They can't hide forever."

Good resolutions

By Jean-Claude Elias

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of dealing with a personal computer (PC) is not in learning how to use it but rather in knowing what are the applications that are worth implementing on it and how to do that.

Apart from the usual, de facto, programmes that are often mentioned in this column — word processing, data bases, spreadsheets — the available range of multimedia hardware and software products is still relatively new on the market. Multimedia is the integration of sound, image and text.

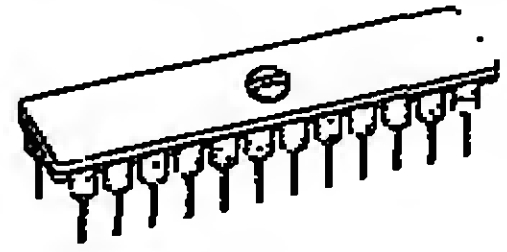
PC music applications for instance have reached a highly professional quality while the cost of the products has gone down drastically. Even home users nowadays can enjoy doing excellent digital recordings, on a par with major label CDs, with just the help of their computer.

Photography on the other hand has not only remained expensive to process on PCs, but it has not yet reached the quality that traditional systems — i.e. hand held, consumer cameras — provide.

The key element we are talking about here is resolution. When an analog signal, like a sound wave we hear or a landscape we admire, is converted to a digital format, it is translated by the computer to a series of zeroes and ones. The higher the number of zeroes and ones, the closer the digitised result will be to the analog format, that is to real life. This number is called resolution.

While the digital resolution will never match exactly the sharpness of real waves or images, it can sometimes come close enough to them in order to satisfy our ears and our eyes. In music, the resolution has become so fine that even expert ears cannot make anymore the distinction between the analog and the digital wave.

chip talk



In photography there is still a long way to go. Images that are PC processed are nowhere close to the fine rendering of a Kodachrome slide picture for instance. Although software like Adobe Photoshop offers amazing processing and editing image functions, the final output cannot compete with the direct output of a Canon or Nikon 35mm SLR camera.

The reader may ask "why is not it possible to push the resolution high enough in order to bring the digitised photograph very close to the analog one?" A simple calculation would show that as much as 20 or 40 MB (million bytes or characters) per picture, would be required to obtain such a result. This figure is not only unacceptable in terms of disk storage but it also means that the processing itself would be very long.

Although disk storage has made amazing progress in the last 2 or 3 years in terms of cost and capacity, it hasn't reached the threshold required to allow PC users to store their photo albums on hard disk. Unless, of course, one is willing to compromise and accept poor quality pictures.

High resolution TV is coming. It shouldn't be long before processors become fast enough to treat and store gigabytes (billions of characters) in a few seconds. I would then gladly trade my Kodachromes for digital viewing.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

STRANGE BUT TRUE

★ The greatest number of locusts ever mentioned through history had covered 33,000 square kilometres — about 60-km long and 55-km wide. The number of locusts consisted of more than 100,000,000,000.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The speed of deer may reach 80 kilometres per hour.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ There are nearly 700 types of scorpions. The most dangerous sting is likely to kill a man within 24 hours; yet they are not all poisonous.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The height of an ostrich is estimated to be two metres and its egg approximately equals the size of a big grapefruit.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Eleven people had died in an attempt to reach Mount Everest before Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were able to conquer it in 1953.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Take all these points into consideration.
Khoz jami' hazihin-niqat be'aynilitbar.
- Why do you adhere to your superstitious ideas?
Lemaza tatamassak be'afkarikalwahumiya?
- Don't impose yourself on people.
La tata'taffal alan'nass.
- I disagree with you.
Innani akhtalifo ma'aka fir'ray.
- The telephone is out of order. Al-hastiff mu'attal.
- He's poor; have pity on him.
Innahu faqeer; ash'fiq alay'he.
- I sent for him but he didn't come.
Arsalto elayhe walakinnahu lam yahdor.
- This is my book. I bought it yesterday on my visit to the Book Fair.
Haza kitabi. Ishtaraytoho ams min ma'ridil kitba.
- I can speak both Italian and Spanish.
Aqdir ann atakallam al-italiya wal-ibaniya ala had-den sa'waa.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

† The doctor dissatisfied with the small sum paid by the patient, asked with a touch of irony:
"Is this money for me or for the attendant?"
"For both," answered the invalid.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE JUDGE: "You're accused of having hit your wife on the head with a plate. Aren't you sorry about it?"

HUSBAND: "Of course I am — it was a brand new plate!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A boy from Gabrovo (a town known for its miserly people) lit a candle to his dead mother.

In a little while, however, his father blew it out.

"Save the rest for me, son," he said.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The son of a neighbour wanted to become a doctor.
"You fool," his father scolded him. "Better study dentistry. Man has one heart, but 32 teeth!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. In what countries are the following garments worn?
— Gallabiya, Sarong, Dirndle, Sari, Kimono, Burnoss, Yashmak.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2. Who sailed in the following ships? — Argo, Beagle, Hampshire, Endeavour, Fram, Ark.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

3. Complete the names of the following film stars:

★ Bette
★ Roscoe
★ Mary Miles
★ Theda
★ Rudolph
★ Lon
★ Oscar
★ Pola
★ Conrad

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

DEAFNESS: To dream of losing your own hearing is the forerunner of great financial success; to dream of others being deaf signifies a happy solution to your present problems, unless you were trying to communicate with a deaf-mute, in which case you must expect a period of frustration before you get what you want.

DUMBNESS: Whether it was yourself or others who were unable to speak, a dream of dumbness is a warning to keep your business to yourself and avoid any speculative ventures for the time being.

BLINDNESS: A dream of warning; whether the dream involved others who were blind or your own blindness, it is a straightforward sign of deceit among those you trust most.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PERPLEXITIES

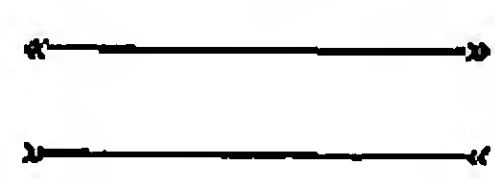
(A) Rearrange the following numbers in squares in three rows provided the total of numbers in every direction be equivalent to 18.

No. 5 only should remain in the same place.

5	7	6
2	10	9
8	4	3

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(B) Which shape is longer: the first or the second?



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

No immunity from responsibility

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Sustainable development brings together two strands of thought about the management of human activities — one concentrating on development goals, the other on controlling and limiting the harmful impacts of human activities on the environment. Of all the diverse and rapidly growing body of literature about "sustainable development," only a small proportion of this literature considers sustainable development with regard to cities and urban systems. This is surprising, given that it is within cities that a considerable (and growing) proportion of the world's population live, and a much higher proportion of all resource use and waste generation is concentrated. Worldwide, urban-based producers and consumers account for most fossil fuel and other non-renewable resource consumption, and most greenhouse gas emissions, because of the concentration of the world's industries and of middle- and upper-income households in urban centres. Urban plans, building and planning norms, and codes and regulations in use (and the extent to which they are implemented) influence the energy and resource intensity of both production and consumption in cities. Urban policies and plans and the influence of official rules and

regulations on buildings and land developments will have a central role in any national strategy which promotes sustainable development. City and municipal governments will be crucially important agents in any such strategy.

One thing which is very clear is that many current global trends (including those associated with cities) are neither sustainable nor contributing to development. In the "South," widespread poverty exists and four decades of "development planning" have failed to substantially lessen the proportion of the population living with their basic needs (broadly defined) unmet. There are also worrying trends in terms of unsustainable levels of use for some resources through deforestation and soil erosion. In the "North," the problem centres on the scale of resource use, waste pollution and greenhouse gas emission. Nevertheless, even in the richer countries there are also million of people whose development needs are not met.

While meeting the needs of the poorer groups in both the "North" and "South" need not imply an unsustainable level of resource use, it is clear that extending the levels of resource consumption and waste generation currently enjoyed by the rich minority to an increasing proportion of the world's population almost certainly does.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 10

7:10 Road to Avonlea

8:30 My Secret Identity

Collision Course

Kirk gets kidnapped and locked in a lorry after he uncovers a theft incident in his school. His friend Andro comes to his rescue.

9:10 Snowy River

Love Finds A Way

A lady tries to stop a government order to lay a railway across her land.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Scissors

Starring: Sharon Stone and Steve Railsback

A beautiful lady who already receives a psychotherapeutic treatment undergoes a rape attempt in the elevator where using a scissors is her only choice to protect herself.

11:50 Never The Twain

Definitely Not Cricket

A team of old ladies is formed to play cricket when all of a sudden the weather changes interfere.

Friday, Nov. 11

7:30 African Skies

9:10 Tequila And Bonetti

Teach Your Children

A man wants to get his revenge from a female police officer. Her little daughter pays the price. Bonetti and his partner get to work.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

More problems arise between Emilie and her husband as city life becomes more demanding.

11:10 Coming of Age

The Kids Are Coming Back

Dick's house turns into a complete mess as the boys return.

Saturday, Nov. 12

7:30 Black Beauty

8:30 Home Improvement

Advertisement In Fine Dinner

Not only does Tim promise his wife to teach his kids table manners, but also to take her to the opera in case he fails.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

The Big Show Of 1965

In this episode, a recent murder incident leads Jessica to solve another murder which took place 25 years ago.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Scarlett

The Making Of Scarlett

The Making of Scarlett exactly one day before the first episode which will be aired tomorrow.

Sunday, Nov. 13

7:15 On Location

7:30 F.B.I.: The Untold Stories

Border Kill

In this episode, the F.B.I. leaps in to find out more about a Mexican girl who is found dead while attempting to infiltrate the American border.

8:30 You Bet Your Life

More winners and losers on Bill Cozby's quiz show.

9:10 Sherlock Holmes

Incident At Victoria Falls

Holmes carries on his struggle and search for the original gem.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Scarlett

11:30 The Upper Hand

Playing To Win

Instead of becoming a winner, Tom comes back home with an arm in a sling after taking part in the competition.

Monday, Nov. 14

7:30 Movies, Games, And Videos

8:30 Coach

Something Old Something New

Hayden helps a friend make a marriage decision just at the right time.

9:10 Documentary — The Deep Probe

10:00 News In English

10:20 Head Hunters

The Golden Hello

In a cut-throat world where the pursuit of higher salaries is a major trade tactic, Hall entices the best personnel from a long-established city law firm. The owner sees no future for himself and commits suicide.

Tuesday, Nov. 15

7:10 The Nature Of Things

8:30 The New Leave It To Beaver

No Free Lunch

The three kids lose a car deal after being tricked by a man who robs them of their money.

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

Burial Ground

Being caught with stolen money while trying to bury it underground, the three robbers are tracked down and are finally shot dead after being surprised by a police officer.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Elliott

The two sisters join forces to challenge industrial espionage and intrigue.

11:00 Fly By Night

Affaire De Cœur

A double-dealer gets kidnapped by a big gang to which he owes a lot of money.

Wednesday, Nov. 16

7:10 Battlestar Galactica

9:10 Documentary — Cracking The Code

Accidents Of Creation

A look at the Darwin theory of evolution. The programme discusses the development of man and the other species.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Poldark

Ross asks Sir Francis to join forces to face a bankruptcy crisis.

11:00 The Exile

The life of an American lady is threatened after being kidnapped by a professional gang in Paris. John and his two partners come to her rescue.

The Louvre — France's expanding museum

By Michael Thurston
Agence France Presse

PARIS — Barely a year after expanding sideways to a whole new wing of t-filled galleries, the world-renowned Louvre museum in Paris is growing again — in the opposite direction.

The museum, which is a government ministry to make way for the Richelieu Wing last November, has this time kept out former stables the vaults of its river-side wing to make way for treasure trove of world culture.

Where once there were stables and straw, the genius architects have created two new bright galleries filled with row after row of some of Michelangelo's finest but least known works.

"Much of the works has been on show elsewhere, though many items have been brought out of storage to put in the new galleries," said a spokesman for the museum. The aim is to display it in much better setting.

The new galleries, yards on the banks of the River Seine in the Louvre's eastern wing, were officially opened along with a whole new state-of-the-art hitting display Wednesday by French Culture Minister Jacques Toubon. The inauguration is only

the latest stage in the so-called Grand Louvre project, launched to make one of Paris' most popular tourist attractions even more art-lover-friendly.

Millions of footsore tourists have for years been spared the gruelling queues outside the Louvre's old entrance, since the controversial glass Pyramid was baptised in 1990.

The pyramid, set in the neo-classical central courtyard, deceptively hides the cavernous underground reception to the museum. The next major stage was the Richelieu Wing, which took over the former Finance Ministry almost a year ago.

At the same time the museum was linked up to a labyrinthine shopping and restaurant complex, focussed around a mirror image of the controversial pyramid suspended, staccato-like, from the ceiling.

The new galleries, which opened to the public recently after 18 months of work, house more than 400 pieces over an 1,900 square metres (19,000 square foot) area, which includes the former stables of Napoleon III at floor level.

Pride of place in the upper Michelangelo Gallery — formerly an entrance area — are the Italian Renaissance master's Slaves, which benefit from

the light from the south-facing windows looking out towards the Seine.

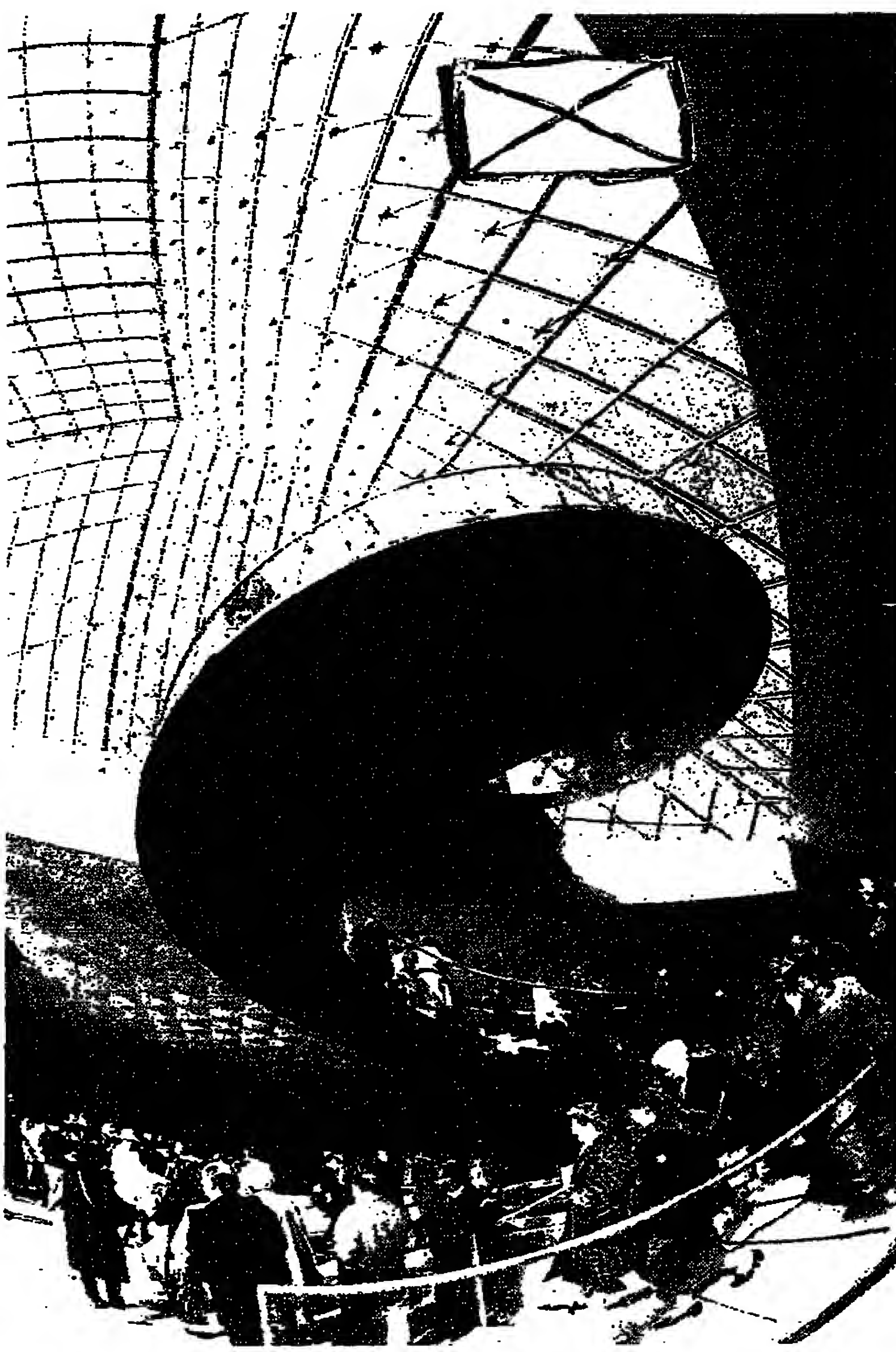
In the lower gallery — the ex-stables — architects Catherine Bizouard and Francois Pin have ripped out the false ceiling which used to cover some 140 horses to reveal perfectly preserved vaulted stonework.

Within it are housed not only works by Donatello but pieces by other Italian, Flemish, German, Spanish, English and Scandinavian masters from the 6th to the 19th centuries.

The latest addition to the world's most visited museum — claimed officially since the opening of the Richelieu Wing to mark its 200th anniversary — is of course not the end of the grand Louvre project.

Work is already well under way in linking the museum to the labyrinth of shopping malls, restaurants and carparks, which are planned to extend right under the neighbouring Tuileries Gardens.

Eventually the project, due to be completed in 1997, will allow visitors to view the famous Mona Lisa, go shopping, have dinner and take a stroll along the Seine to the Place De La Concorde, without coming up for air.



The pyramid deceptively hides the cavernous underground reception to the Louvre Museum

On Baywatch, if nowhere else, life is a beach

By Frazier Moore
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — David Hasselhoff stands at the railing of Baywatch Lifeguard Headquarters and takes a moment to contemplate the vista before him. The Pacific Ocean. One of the few things arguably bigger than the TV show he stars in.

But Hasselhoff's musings are cut short by a voice ringing out from the real lifeguard office a wall away. The real lifeguard asks Hasselhoff to move back on the deck a few steps and please not block the view: Real bathers are down there on the beach, after all, real lives are at stake and, as the Baywatch theme plainly states the lifeguard's creed, "I won't let you out of my sight."

"Oh, sorry," says Hasselhoff. Anyhow, he has to go film his next scene for the Syndicated Series. He can't keep a worldwide audience of one billion viewers in more than 140 countries waiting.

So unfolds another day of Baywatch at Will Rogers Beach, just up from Santa Monica, where most every weekday from June to December real life co-exists with a Parallel universe: The reassuring, romanticised Baywatch version, headed by Hasselhoff.

At 42, he plays Lt. Mitch Buchannon of the Los Angeles County Beach Patrol and hunky den father to the buffed and full-chested younger men and women who serve in his command. Under Buchannon's leadership, they save lives, catch rays, offer moral lessons, preen, and radiate unconsumed sexual vibes — much of this in arty slow-motion with a rock beat.

At the moment, Hasselhoff is costumed only on his red lifeguard trunks, as he withdraws into the make-believe Baywatch office to film a scene with Pamela Anderson, who plays lifeguard C.J. Parker.

"Father Ryan told me he's thinking of leaving the priesthood," C.J. will confide to Mitch, "and I'm afraid it's because he's fallen in love with me."

Meanwhile, in the real command post, a bare-chested hunk in red trunks similar to Hasselhoff's curls twin 30-pound (13.5-kg) barbells, left, right, back and forth, as he scans the water and the beach.

Soon the scene next



David Hasselhoff

door is finished. Pamela Anderson emerges from the office out onto the deck.

"I'm so-o-o stiff," she says to no one in particular, whereupon this bodacious young actress in her red Baywatch speedo arches her back and stretches her arms behind her in what becomes, for at least one witness, a heart-stopping spandex moment.

Catching his breath, the reporter asks Anderson to identify the hardest part of her Baywatch duties.

"It's not really hard," she coolly replies. "It just — uh, takes up a lot of time."

For her, anyway. "One line. Rough day," says Yasmine Bleeth, a Baywatch newcomer who plays lifeguard Caroline Holden.

She has emerged from her trailer sporting a different, civilian swimsuit.

"I'm gonna work on my tan," she announces before plopping herself on a yellow towel on the beach, just a few dozen metres from the lifeguard headquarters.

Looking out from his command post, real-life lifeguard Lorry Haddock is asked if Baywatch is a good thing for the lifeguards it depicts with its blend of reverence and abandon.

"Well, maybe showing the professional part of what we do is good," hedges Haddock, a 20-year, second-generation lifeguard who is at least as pretty and as pumped as his make-believe Baywatch counterparts.

"The original Baywatch producer was once a guard, so every once in while they get a pretty good storyline. But sometimes they have hokey episodes that we're kind of embarrassed about."

They're making films in Britain again

By Matt Wolf

The Associated Press
LONDON — Get ready for four Weddings and A Funeral, Part 2.

Perhaps not precisely. Bafter the surprise success of the British comedy movie-making in Britain is on the rise, with a lot of films jostling to be the world's next unexpected smash.

From Hollywood blockbuster to period pieces, low action movies to notions of highbrow ph, British studios and loons are bustling with activity.

ue, Britain may not be anything resembling a industry, but it's got a genuinely inexhaustible talent pool, and American may and production companies are eager to use.

"That we've got going for here is a fantastically talented infrastructure," says producer of Four Weddings, Duncan Kenworthy. "We have all the talent and the techniques, all the capabilities."

Shey Samuelson of the British Film Commis-

sion, which opened in January 1992 to facilitate filmmaking throughout the country, said, "We've got a portfolio of buildings to offer producers that has taken 1,000 years to put together."

For the moment, there's enough activity to make an onlooker think an industry might exist.

Thirty-two films have begun shooting in Britain this year. Total investment in British production through September is up to \$442 million, compared to \$312 million for all of 1993.

And though one of its three major studios — Elstree in Hertfordshire — is no longer functional, two others — Pinewood and Shepperton — are booming.

Paul Oliver, Shepperton Studio manager, said there was a whole climate of wishing to make films in Britain and many of them at Shepperton.

Already completed on the various sites of the 17-stage complex are such Hollywood-financed pictures as Mary Shelley's

Frankenstein and Restoration.

"It's economically more advantageous to shoot here," said Beau Marks, producer of Judge Dredd, adding that his film would be spending about \$31 million in Britain.

Marks emphasised that England wasn't economically the "cheapest place" to make the film. The movie, inspired by a British comic strip, is heavy on effects and set in a futuristic "megacity" that one recent day began to look a lot like Manhattan.

However, Marks said, it was "the best all-round" when you take into account film crews, special-effects technicians, and a dollar-pound exchange rate that has hovered on or near the 1.5 mark now for some time.

Britain, too, has extensive experience making blockbuster films. The Stars Wars and Alien movies were shot in Britain, as were the James Bond thrillers, the Superman movies and Who Framed Roger Rabbit?

"There's a very fair

give-and-take of what they need and what I need," the producer added. The choice of Shepperton, he said, was "a business decision based on creativity."

Megamovies aside, Britain is once again attractive to filmmakers, who have seen young British actors such as Hugh Grant and Ralph Fiennes become bankable names more or less overnight — and small British movies such as Four Weddings gross \$200 million.

In addition, the box-office climate lately has been hospitable to the period movies England does best — Merchant Ivory projects such as Howards End and The Remains Of The Day, or grittier fare like My Beautiful Laundrette.

"It's very nice while it's here," producer David Parfitt said of Britain's present cachet. "I don't know how long it will last."

Long enough, it is hoped, to abet Parfitt's two upcoming films: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, with Robert De Niro as

the monster, and directed by Kenneth Branagh, which opened in the United States and Britain on Nov. 4; and The Madness Of George III, an \$8 million film of Alan Bennett's play, directed by Nicholas Hytner.

Nigel Hawthorne repeats his award-winning stage performance as George III, the mad Hanoverian monarch, and the supporting cast George III, the mad Hanoverian monarch, and the supporting cast includes Helen Mirren, John Wood, Ian Holm, Rupert Graves and Rupert Everett.

But Parfitt said it took the casting of De Niro as the monster to firm up the \$40 million budget for Frankenstein.

"I think (the American producers) were happy once they secured De Niro," said Parfitt. "To play the most famous creature ever is quite a challenge for someone who's such a method actor."

At least one major film — the \$25 million Mel Gibson Braveheart — re-

jected Britain in favour of Ireland, which offers tax incentives the British do not.

That hasn't dampened enthusiasm. In Scotland, director Michael Caton-Jones is putting the finishing touches on the 18th-century period film, Rob Roy, with Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange.

Two movies written by Christopher Hampton recently were completed in London: Mary Reilly, with Julia Roberts and John Malkovich; and Carlingford, starring Emma Thompson and Jonathan Pryce and directed by the author.

England now has two options regarding film production, according to Four Weddings producer Kenworthy: "To join the American industry or escape from that industry and make our own."

"It will be a nice day when it isn't essential that people go to America to reap the rewards," he said. "I can think of nothing better than making movies in Britain."

Hollywood activism — more walk, less talk

By John Horn
The Associated Press

CULVER CITY, Calif. — Most Hollywood activists simply open their checkbooks. Alexandra Paul opens students' minds.

Aanguard in the intercession between show business and politics, the 31-year-old Baywatch star singlehandedly has launched a educational campaign focused on population growth.

Paul personally calls local elementary and high schools, offering her speaking services for free, and with a local college professor crisscrosses southern California campuses talking about the dangers of unchecked birthrates.

"Partisan politics are tough and really heart-wrenching," says Paul, a High School Programme, longtime environmentalist. "It's much easier to believe in an issue than a candidate."

The activism for many

show business personalities begins and ends with campaign contributions or an RSVP to a fancy fundraiser. A growing number of people, however, are taking their political involvement one step further — attending educational forums, speaking publicly and donating time and energy to such projects as being mentors to pupils from inner-city neighbourhoods.

"People will write checks and that's good and well, but it has to go further than that," says Mark Gill, the president of Show Coalition, a non-partisan organisation whose 430 members include Richard Dreyfuss, Harrison Ford and Sally Field.

Show Coalition members launched the Jordan High School Programme, in which students work in a variety of entertainment industry summer jobs. The organisation also

stages a series of educational forums for its members, with speakers ranging from U.S. Senator Bob Dole of Kansas to Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Féin, a political party allied to the Irish Republican Army.

"The premise is to get people thinking, serve as a jumping-off point," Gill says.

The Hollywood Policy Centre likewise has sent entertainment industry delegations to South Africa (for voter registration) and El Salvador (election monitoring).

"We've been around five years, and it was never about doing stuff in our own community. It was about putting people on the road," says Cathy Garmany, director of the Hollywood Policy Centre.

The organisation helps educate actors and others about issues and coach them on public speaking. "It's very different appearing before a huge crowd than before a

camera," says Garmany. "But because they are actors, they know how to tap into the emotional aspects of issues."

Actor Roscoe Lee Browne has been in a policy centre-backed panel on Haiti intervention and actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus is committed to working women and families.

"She has kids, she works — it's real for her," Garmany says.

The surge in hands-on activism hasn't killed off Hollywood's most ubiquitous asset: Financial largesse. When it comes to check-writing, there tend to be two types of payments: Calculated influence peddling and real altruism.

MCA Chairman Lew Wasserman, for example, gives generously to both the Democratic and Republican parties, a safe hedge protecting MCA's Washington interests in everything from international trade to copyright

protection. Wasserman, one of the Hollywood's wealthiest moguls, also signs \$1,000 checks to a range of U.S. Senate candidates, from Virginia's Chuck Robb to Illinois' Carol Moseley-Braun.

Entertainment mogul David stays closer to party lines. The liberal billionaire either individually or through his foundation has given more than \$20,000 to Democratic senatorial and congressional committees, and has cut \$5,000 checks to friends of family planning.

In its first 10 years, the Hollywood Women's Political Committee has disbursed nearly \$5 million, mostly to state and national candidates. State Treasurer Kathleen Brown has received one of the largest checks for her gubernatorial bid — \$40,000.

Even though Hollywood is depicted as politically liberal, an increasing

number of show business conservatives — including one top studio executive — are aligning themselves with right-wing candidates. A recent Weekend conference featuring conservatives talking about Hollywood drew 250 guests.

Jeff Sagansky, the second highest-ranking executive of Sony Corp. USA, is a principal backer of Republican Michael Huffington's bid for the U.S. Senate. Hollywood supporters at a recent Huffington reception included producer Leonard Goldberg, former Columbia Pictures chief Frank Price and Hanoi-Hilton screenwriter Lionel Chetwynd.

David Horowitz, a radio commentator and an organiser of the conservative summit, says Hollywood's conservatives have been in hiding until recently.

"There is a lot of intimidation against con-

servatives," Horowitz says, adding that outspoken actor Charlton Heston has been "marginalised" in Hollywood for his right-wing beliefs.

"My agenda (in the conference) was just to make it more comfortable — to humanise and legitimise those people in town who don't agree with the liberal party line," Horowitz says.

The participants in the conference included Tom Selleck, Heston and Tony Thomas, a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. producer.

For all the upheaval in Hollywood politics, there are some lessons still unlearned.

On Oct. 17, the Environmental Media Association honoured those television shows and feature films carrying positive environmental messages.

In a CBS soundstage decorated with trees and artificial turf, hundreds of celebrities and show business executives (from Arnold Schwarzenegger to Disney's Michael Eisner) dined on organic greens and free-range chicken. Guests received gift sets including earth-friendly soaps and reusable shopping bags.

The planet was on centre stage — but vanity did not take the night off. Given a once-in-a-lifetime chance to chat briefly with keynote speaker Mikhail Gorbachev, TV actress Faith Ford (Murphy Brown) asked the Nobel Peace Prize winner whether he had seen her situation comedy.

And on the one night when ride-sharing (or, at the very least, cars) would seem mandatory, no less than two dozen boat-sized limousines sat idling outside the CBS stage throughout the ceremony, their gas-guzzling engines spewing smoky pollution into the evening sky.

'Smoking disrupts human eggs and triggers cancer genes'

MONTREAL (AP) — Cigarette smoke may cause a catastrophic disruption of the chromosomes in human eggs that can lead to miscarriage, researchers say.

The researchers found nicotine and cadmium, another component of cigarette smoke, in the fluid that surrounds maturing eggs just before they are fertilised.

Women who smoke produce immature eggs, said Maria Teresa Zenzes, a geneticist at Toronto General Hospital. Those eggs have twice the appropriate number of chromosomes, and they produce highly abnormal fetuses that nearly always result in miscarriages, she said.

The study offers a possible explanation for why women who smoke are more likely to have miscarriages, Dr. Zenzes re-

ported at the annual meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics.

In a separate study, researchers said that a chromosome abnormality associated with lymphoma is 3.6 times as common in heavy smokers as it is in non-smokers, possibly explaining why that form of cancer is roughly three times as common in heavy smokers as in non-smokers.

"When any tissue comes in contact with cigarette smoke, you get a myriad of changes," said one of the authors of the lymphoma study, Douglas Bell, a molecular biologist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

The study is part of a new field of research attempting to find genetic changes associated with smoking. These changes

could explain why smoking causes so many kinds of cancer, Dr. Bell said.

Mary-Claire King, an epidemiologist and geneticist at the University of California at Berkeley, said the studies were important because they showed new ways that smoking could cause genetic aberrations, even before conception.

Both studies found that the effects were more pronounced with increasing exposure to cigarette smoke.

In the lymphoma study, for example, researchers found that those who had smoked the longest had the largest number of chromosome abnormalities, and those with moderate exposure to smoke had a moderately increased number of abnormalities.

The abnormalities occurred at a gene called

BCL-2, which is known to be associated with lymphoma, Dr. Bell said. The study was based on analysis of the genes of 85 smokers and 35 non-smokers, he said.

The study of abnormalities in human eggs was done using eggs removed from women for the purpose of test-tube fertilisation. Dr. Zenzes studied 102 non-smokers and 52 women who were exposed to their husbands' cigarette smoke.

She found the highest rate of abnormalities in the heaviest smokers, moderate rates in lighter smokers, and the lowest increases in women exposed to secondhand smoke.

Earlier studies had found similar effects in hamster and mouse eggs exposed to cigarette smoke, she said.

WHO: No alcohol is best

By Robert Evans
Heuter

GENEVA — United Nations experts, challenging claims that a little drink can be good for everyone's health, said the best way to handle alcohol was to drink as little as possible and preferably none at all.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) experts told a news conference that publicity around some recent reports suggesting moderate drinking could be beneficial was mainly inspired by commercial interests seeking wider sales.

"Alcohol consumption causes some of the world's most serious health problems... there is no minimum threshold below which alcohol can be consumed without any risk," WHO substance abuse programme director Hans Embiad told a recent news conference.

"These reports suggest that moderate drinking

can lower the chance of heart disease," said Mario Argandoña, a senior aide to Mr. Embiad. "But this is only for a very small percentage of people who are already at very low risk."

Several studies over the past year, including some carried out under WHO auspices, have indicated that for some people a glass of red wine or similar quantities of alcohol taken daily can help ward off heart problems.

The two experts said they were speaking up because they feared the results of these studies had been misinterpreted — possibly wilfully — to promote more alcohol consumption, especially in developing countries.

The message should be: "The less you drink, the better," said Mr. Embiad, a Swede who told the news conference he was not an anti-alcohol crusader and occasionally enjoyed a glass of wine.

But he agreed the logic of the argument he and Mr. Argandoña presented was that it would be better for everyone's health if they drank no alcohol at all.

the small category of people — non-smoking, middle-aged men with a healthy life-style and eating habits — to whom an occasional glass of wine might give added protection from heart disease could get the same effect from danger-free alternatives.

"They could simply take half an aspirin," Mr. Embiad said. Mr. Argandoña, a Bolivian, said alcohol produced dependence, caused cancer and liver disease, contributed to domestic, occupational and traffic accidents, to violence and crime — and helped the spread of sexual diseases like AIDS.

In many industrialised states where the harmful social and health effects of drinking were now widely

recognised, they said, there was a slow but steady decline in alcohol consumption — as it was of smoking.

But production of consumption was continuing to increase worldwide because of the expansion of the market of many developing countries where alcohol consumption was previously not widespread.

WHO experts have often accused major international tobacco companies of seeking to make up losses due to a decline in smoking in the West by mounting major advertising campaigns in new emerging states where there are less controls.

But Mr. Embiad id WHO was engaged in a "useful dialogue" with alcohol producers in an attempt to limit advertising, particularly at aimed at young people.

Even moderate drinking by the young and women, Mr. Argandoña declared, was harmful.

Drug cultivation is disastrous for environment

By Juliette Hollier-Larousse

Agence France Presse PARIS — Cultivation of drugs and the associated industry is proving disastrous for the environment as well as the user, but unsuitable substitute crops are not much better, a special conference here heard.

Participants, ranging from United Nations experts to local farmers, concentrated on Latin America, but the situation in Asia was also dealt with at the meeting organised by the organisation "Environment Sans Frontières".

Deforestation, pollution and soil erosion are the main results of the spreading cultivation of

the coca plant for cocaine in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru, threatening the eco-systems of the Amazonian regions.

Peruvian farmer Aquilino Chujandama said the coca growers were brought in from other regions to work for the drug barons, and had little concern for anything but a quick return.

"They have no real agricultural experience," he said. "As a result they devastate the ground, work the earth until it's exhausted, then after a few years clear land further on."

Rocardo Soberon, of the Andean Commission of Jurists, said that since 1970 the cocaine industry had led to 700,000 hec-

tares (1.7 million acres) of forest being razed.

More than 200,000 hectares were under cultivation, the rest had been abandoned because they were no longer fertile or because of feeding, or were used as airstrips — 130 in Peru alone — or for the camps and processing laboratories of the drug dealers.

The conversion of the leaves of the coca plant into coca paste, the base for cocaine, employed highly toxic chemicals which were then poured into rivers and streams, said Peruvian forestry specialist Marcelo Buenaventura.

All the watercourses in the country were affected, he said, seriously threat-

ening the biodiversity of the Amazonian forest.

But attempts to eradicate coca cultivation and substitute other crops were just as disastrous, said Juan de Rementaria, an expert with the United Nations International Drug Abuse Control Programme.

"One hectare of coca brings in as much as eight hectares of maize," he said. "Therefore maize needs eight times as much natural resource, which means more deforestation."

Western countries continued to subsidise their own agriculture, a substitute crop programme had no chance of succeeding, Mr. De Rementaria warned.

High blood cholesterol not as threatening in elderly — study

CHICAGO (AP) — A new study shows high cholesterol may not be much of a threat to healthy people over age 70, leading some to suggest doctors may be needlessly prescribing cholesterol-lowering drugs for many older patients.

People ages 71 to 104 with elevated cholesterol levels suffered no more heart attacks or deaths than their counterparts with normal cholesterol levels, the study of 997 people found.

"Cholesterol in older people may mean something very different than in younger people," said the lead author, Dr. Harlan M. Krumholz, an assistant professor of medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. He emphasised that more research is needed.

One possibility is that cholesterol levels in the old may not reflect life-long levels. Another is that people who have survived with high cholesterol may be more resistant to its artery-clogging potential than other people, the researchers said in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Previous research on high cholesterol in the elderly has yielded confusing findings, an American Heart Association spokesman said.

At least two large studies have found that high cholesterol increased the likelihood of heart problems, and at least four found that such levels did not, said Dr. John D. Brunzell, who was not involved in the new research.

The apparent conflict may be explained by the varying health of elderly people enrolled in the studies, said Dr. Brunzell, a professor of medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The studies in which cholesterol seemed harmful in later life involved unusually healthy subjects, he said. For such people, heart disease may occur much later in life, and high cholesterol may play a role, he said.

For groups more representative of the population — as in the new study and the four others that found high cholesterol to be benign in the elderly — heart disease may already have occurred at earlier ages, he said.

More than 2 million

Americans over age 65 are being treated with drugs to lower high cholesterol levels, and many may be getting treatment unnecessarily, an editorial accompanying the study suggested.

Cholesterol-lowering drugs can be expensive, can have uncomfortable side effects and may increase the risk of other causes of death, such as cancer, the editorial said.

Contrary to federal recommendations, "elderly people in their late 70s and beyond generally should not be screened or treated for high blood cholesterol," said the editorial, by Drs. Stephen B. Hulley and Thomas B. Newman of the University of California, San Francisco.

"The most important thing about this (new)

papers is it suggests that we need to be careful treating high cholesterol in older people, thinking we're going to prevent heart disease," Dr. Brunzell said. "There's very little data to suggest it'll work."

The National Cholesterol Education Programme recommends that all adults know their blood cholesterol levels.

Dr. Basil Rifkind of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, aged that "we don't want too high a proportion of individuals on drug treatment to reduce cholesterol."

But he said the study was small and would need to look at the results of several studies of this type with large numbers to draw the proper conclusions.

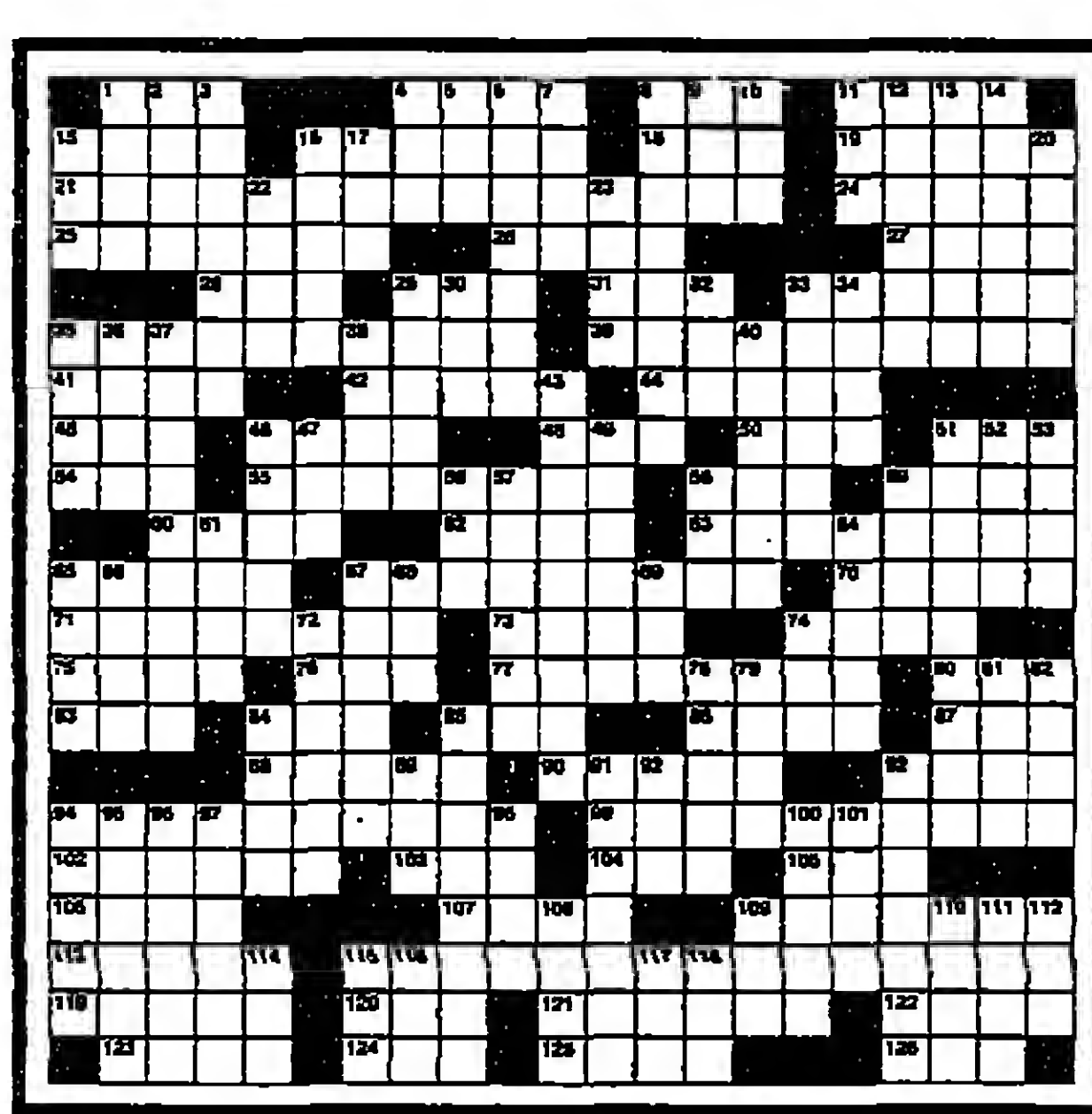
WEEKEND CROSSWORD

FEELINGS

By Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS

1. Scurry on horse
2. Endless
3. Do name
4. Measure
5. Spotted cow
6. Goal maker
7. Tactician
8. Characterized by
9. Bears
10. Goshawk
11. Common Cornish
12. Contingent
13. Automaton
14. Words of
15. Understanding
16. Naïve
17. Newborn oil
18. Do
19. Small piano
20. Cretaceous
21. Precarious
22. Claret or port
23. Down
24. French impersonal
25. Soft, subtle
26. Yaw, to Yvette
27. Small pasta
28. Yields as a
29. Return
30. Employers again
31. Friends of nose
32. Symbolic narrative
33. Floor grade
34. Jean — Pissarro
35. Unlucky
36. Commence
37. Chord
38. Portable lamp
39. Schooling
40. Miss
41. Frontal limb
42. Do garden work
43. Mire
44. Football score
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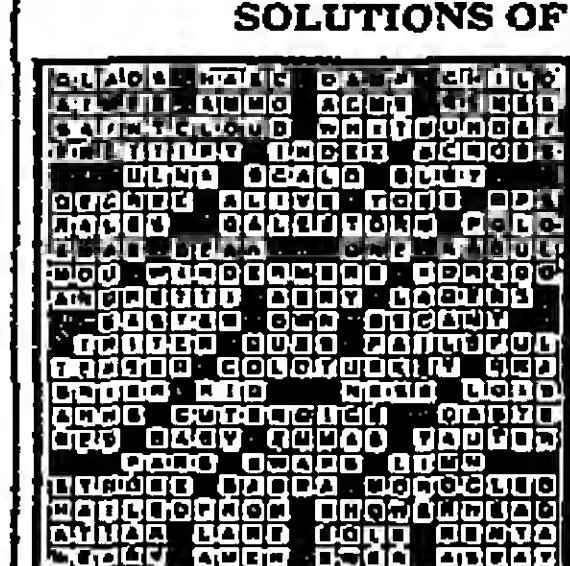


Diagramless 17 x 17
By Don Johnson

ACROSS

1. Organic compound
2. Actor Guinness
3. Desamir
4. Preceded
5. West road
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7. Long-headed
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Cancer cell growth linked to glucose

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand scientists said they had discovered an important link between the growth of cancer cells and their uptake of glucose from the bloodstream.

Mike Berridge, spokesman for the Malaghan Institute at Wellington School of Medicine, said cells had previously been thought to use simple sugars like glucose from the bloodstream as they needed them.

"We found that, in cancer cells, control of this process appears to break down so that glucose uptake in cancer cells is permanently switched on," Mr. Berridge said.

He said it was possible this "switch" was triggered by factors such as radiation or carcinogens in tobacco smoke, which can damage the body's genetic material or DNA.

The research could pave the way for development of highly targeted cancer drugs that could overcome

the "on switch" and return cells to normal growth.

Mr. Berridge said the findings had aroused interest in international scientific circles because they challenged present concepts of cancer.

"Many drug companies are already showing great interest in these new approaches," he said.

The Wellington team had worked closely with researchers in Scotland and the United States, and British and U.S. journals had accepted the results for publication.

The cancer research work, also had relevance for diabetes sufferers, who often build up resistance to insulin.

"This may be because in muscle and fat cells, glucose uptake is not stimulated properly by insulin," Mr. Berridge said.

Researchers were looking at the possibility that the signal to take up glucose was partly "turned off" in diabetes.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Gallabiyah
Sarong
Dimble
Sari
Kimono
Burnoss
Yashmak

2. Jason and his companions sailed in the 40.
N.B. Jason was one of the greatest heroes of the Greek mythology.
Darwin in the Beagle.
Lord Kitchener in the Hampshire.
Captain Cook in the Endeavour.
Nansen (a Norwegian Arctic explorer, statesman, scientist, humanitarian and a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1922) in the Fram.
Noah and Sir Walter Raleigh in the Ark

3. BETTE DAVIS
ROSCOE ARBUCKLE
MARY MILES MINER
THEDA BARA
RUDOLPH VALENTINE
LON CHANEY
OSCAR HOMOLKA
POLA NEGRİ
CONRAD VEIDT.

PERPLAXITIES

- (A)

5 9
10 2
3 7

- (B) Both lines have the same length. It's just an optical illusion.

Peace treaty constitutionalised

(Continued from page 1)

best among a number of bad choices," said Mr. Hikmat. Former Minister of Information Laith Sharaf pointed to a vagueness in some parts of the treaty that she said could be interpreted to the disadvantage of the Kingdom.

Urging the government to address the loopholes she said existed in the accord when negotiating the treaty, she said the accord was signed later under the accord. Ms. Sharaf said these loopholes were a source of concern and worry for many in the country.

The senator said the breaking of the psychological barriers that the accord urged was a step that cannot be forced on the people who would do so gradually when the state of peace was tested and when they were ready.

Therefore, there should be no haste in this regard, she said, adding that the official policy which seems to be pushing for breaking these barriers are creating "confusion."

Ms. Sharaf stressed Jordan's belonging to the Arab Order, which, "even if we admit it is dead," should be reinvigorated before moving to build larger orders which can include Israel.

The senator said the security arrangements reached under the accord banning the formation of any security arrangements with a third party should be explained in later protocols so that they could not be later interpreted in a way that could isolate the Kingdom from the Arab World.

Saying that cultural cooperation with Israel should not pose a threat to the country's Arab Muslim identity, Ms. Sharaf said an item in the accord which bans discriminatory and aggressive propaganda could lead to pressure to rewrite history, something which she said the treaty does not necessarily lead to but should be prevented from happening.

Noting the role Israel played in distorting the image of the Arab and Muslim culture, Ms. Sharaf said Israel should be urged to stop distorting the image of Arabism and Islam of which Jordan is an integral part.

Ms. Sharaf demanded that the official media stop saying that the accord had recognised the sovereignty of Jordan, adding that it is Israel which has been seeking recognition and acceptance to the area.

"We have been on this land since the dawn of history. The sovereignty of our modern state has been recognised for three quarters of a century or more... though the peace accord drives away the ghost of war and destruction... it is not the thing that reaffirms our sovereignty and rights," said Ms. Sharaf.

Former Minister of Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat echoed Ms. Sharaf in speaking against normalisation that could pose a threat to the Kingdom's Arab Muslim culture.

He said the duty of the government and the people was to protect the country's values and traditions against any foreign cultures.

Dr. Khayyat recognised the role Jordan played in protecting Islamic shrines in Jerusalem, saying these shrines should never be given up because they were a concern to the whole Arab and Muslim nation.

But Mr. Obaidat said Jordan made a mistake by bringing up the issue of Jerusalem in the treaty.

In a speech in which he rejected the accord, Mr. Obaidat also criticised the treaty for the way it dealt with the issues of water and refugees and displaced persons.

Mr. Obaidat said Israel managed to guarantee extra shares of the waters of Yarmouk and Jordan rivers at the expense of Jordan, rejecting what he called claims by Jordanian officials that the accord led to the recovery of "all of the Kingdom's water rights."

"Whoever listens to statements by the minister of information and the head of the state delegation on television is bewildered. How could an official claim that Israel gave us more than our rights (in water) and if the figures that some quote

are correct, why are they not specified in the treaty?" said Mr. Obaidat.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Issa said the treaty guaranteed all Jordanian rights in water, saying the Israeli commitment not to consume more than its share of 25 million cubic metres of the waters of the Yarmouk river was "a victory."

Mr. Obaidat also criticised the accord for failing to reach a clear solution to the issue of displaced persons and for agreeing to discuss it within the framework of the four-party committee that includes the Palestinians, Egypt and Israel in addition to the Kingdom.

"While it could be accepted that the issue of refugees could be postponed, the issue of displaced persons remains a Jordanian responsibility," said Mr. Obaidat.

Dr. Majali said Sunday the four-party committee will discuss means of arranging the return of the displaced persons and not the principle of their right to return.

Mr. Obaidat said tackling the issues of Jerusalem's holy sites in the treaty would form the basis of transforming the Israeli conflict "which existed before (the signing of the Oslo) accord into a Jordanian-Palestinian conflict."

He said the reference in the treaty to the religious sovereignty of the holy sites in Jerusalem, which, he said, is part of Palestinian and Arab heritage, would work to the disadvantage of the ability of Arab parties to demand the implementation of U.N. resolution 242 and 338 which deal with Jerusalem among other occupied Arab lands.

Urging steps to correct this mistake and recognising the "honourable role" Jordan has played in protecting Jerusalem, Mr. Obaidat criticised the separation of religious sovereignty from Arab sovereignty over the Old City, saying this would give Israel justification to continue its occupation of Jerusalem "while we enter into a dispute and satisfy ourselves with a symbolic presence in the Islamic shrines."

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Mr. Abu Nowar stressed the role he said Jordan played in promoting Arab ties and supporting the Palestinians.

"We gave Palestine everything to the point where we almost left nothing for ourselves," said Dr. Abu Nowar, adding that the support the Kingdom gave to the Palestinians was not matched by any other country.

In clear response to remarks made by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat recently, Dr. Abu Nowar said: "To those who want us to drink from the sea of Gaza, those of whom we have not heard until 30 years after we (defended) the walls of Jerusalem, I say that we do not drink, and do not give our brethren the Palestinian people, except sweet water" from the fountains of Jordan.

Other members of the Senate stressed that the coming task should be preparing the Kingdom for the challenges of the coming era.

"This treaty is not the end. Though it includes some points which (we have reservations about) it holds the promise of a future which cannot be realised unless we plan for it," said former Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Labar, who headed the Kingdom's delegation to the Madrid peace conference in 1991.

During the session, the Senate also adopted the recommendation of its Foreign Affairs Committee to send a cable to King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to express gratitude for the efforts they made to reach the treaty.

"With the ratification of the treaty," Speaker Lawzi said, the Kingdom will be entering a new era of peace, prosperity and stability.

Mr. Lawzi also said "we are proud of the Jordanian, Arab and international support for the treaty."

Republicans control Congress

(Continued from page 1)

Huge seats while Democrats picked up just four Republican seats. All were vacated seats — not a single Republican incumbent lost.

Catherine Rudder, executive director of the American Political Science Association, said that Ronald Reagan could get his programme through a Congress which for six of his eight years was under Democratic control, but "Reagan was very popular and Clinton is not."

"It is going to be harder to govern, not easier," said Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey who survived despite his support of a ban on assault weapons.

No longer in charge of the House, Rep. Tom Foley also fought for survival in his Washington state district. If defeated, he would be the first House speaker turned out of office since the civil war.

Three-term Gov. Mario Cuomo, a liberal icon, fell in New York. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski in Illinois, under a 17-count federal corruption indictment, also lost.

House Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks of Texas, at 21 terms the longest-serving

lawmaker seeking reelection, was ejected by voters, some resentful that his committee had approved a ban on assault weapons.

Texas also dismissed Gov. Ann Richards in favour of George W. Bush, son of the former president. But another Bush son, Jeb, fell short of taking over the statehouse in Florida.

The Republican resurgence was fed by a deep-felt frustration, leaving the polls Tuesday, voters said they feared for the future, not trusting the U.S. economic upturn to last, or to improve their lives.

Half the voters said they were no better off economically than when Mr. Clinton won two years ago.

Legislatively, universal health care now seems doomed, Mr. Panetta said. Mr. Clinton would propose only "an incremental change."

Tuesday's election brings back the divided government that characterised the Reagan and Bush years and puts Jesse Helms in charge of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Alfonse D'Amato over the banking committee, free to reopen the Whitewater investigation of the Clintons' finances in Arkansas.

Railway figures high in Jordan's track ahead

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Railways, the best means of transport at the turn of the century but faded out because of the redrawing of the regional map in 1948, occupy a major part of Jordan's ambitious programmes to expand the transport sector to cope with the expected rise in demand for services in a state of peace and stability in the Middle East as Israel and the Arabs make peace.

Starting with a small 20-kilometre linkage across the Wadi Araba area with the Israeli rail network to the Israeli rail network to a futuristic Mafrag-Iraqi border stretch, Jordan's plans, if and when realised, would sideline all other forms of transport in favour of railways.

The plans, estimated to cost about \$1.26 billion, would also mean railway access between Jordan and all of its neighbours — Syria, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

However, Jordan has given priority to two of the eight railway projects. The first is for an Amman-Syrian border link, involving about 124 kilometres of rail divided into four parts — Amman to Zarqa, Zarqa-Mafrag, and Mafrag-Syrian border and a branch line to Irbid.

The project is estimated to cost about \$192 million but its cost-effectiveness in terms of accelerated forms of transport, easing traffic congestions and increased means of movement for people local is seen as far

outweighing any other consideration.

The project, which includes an upgrading of the present narrow-gauge single track to standard gauge, also means a Jordanian-European rail-link through Turkey and Syria.

"Once the political situation in the region has been normalised there may be a boost in economic development and a dramatic increase in exchange of goods as well as passenger movement with increased regional integration," noted an analysis drawn up by the Ministry of Planning.

The government is in touch with Austria's Rail Engineering to conduct a study on the project, but no final decision has been taken on when to launch it.

With the Amman-Syrian border link as the centrepiece of its railway network, Jordan could expand it by branching off from Mafrag to the Iraqi border, from where it becomes an Iraqi option to complete another 600 kilometres to Baghdad.

The 305-kilometre Mafrag-Iraqi border part is estimated to cost around \$335 million.

While it is not clearly spelt out, the projects would mean Mafrag, a sleepy little town on the main Amman-Baghdad route, becoming a vital junction, catering to traffic in four different directions — to Syria, Iraq, Irbid and possibly Israel and Amman.

Again, if a new standard-gauge railroad is built between Amman and Aqaba,

accommodating links with Queen Alia International Airport at Jiza, the major phosphate mining area of Shidiya, with Saudi Arabia through Batn Al Ghoul and Al Mudawwara, and with Israeli rail in the Aqaba region, most of the key areas of the Kingdom would have rail access to and from all of its neighbours and between the neighbours and Israel (meaning direct lines between Iraq and Saudi Arabia and the Israeli Mediterranean ports and Gaza Port).

The 420-kilometre Amman-Aqaba linkage with a 20-kilometre spur link with Israel is estimated to cost \$460 million.

Another key railroad project calls for linking Irbid with the Al Majame bridge — a distance of about 100 kilometres. "Amman... is located only 100 kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea," notes the Ministry of Planning. "It is tempting to connect it with a major port on this coast, a situation which prevailed at the beginning of the century but was terminated in 1948," it says referring to the narrow-gauge line that connected the port of Haifa with the Hijaz railway line in Dera'a (Syria).

The project is estimated to cost \$77 million.

One of the medium-priority projects seen as highly feasible and cost-effective is related to potash exports by linking the Kingdom's Dead Sea extraction facilities with those of Israel — 20 kilometres of railroad

at a cost of \$26 million.

"With this, Jordan would enjoy a new exit route to the West and operating should be kept low since potash traffic would complement Israeli traffic and help make optimum use" existing Israeli facilities, says the Ministry of Planning.

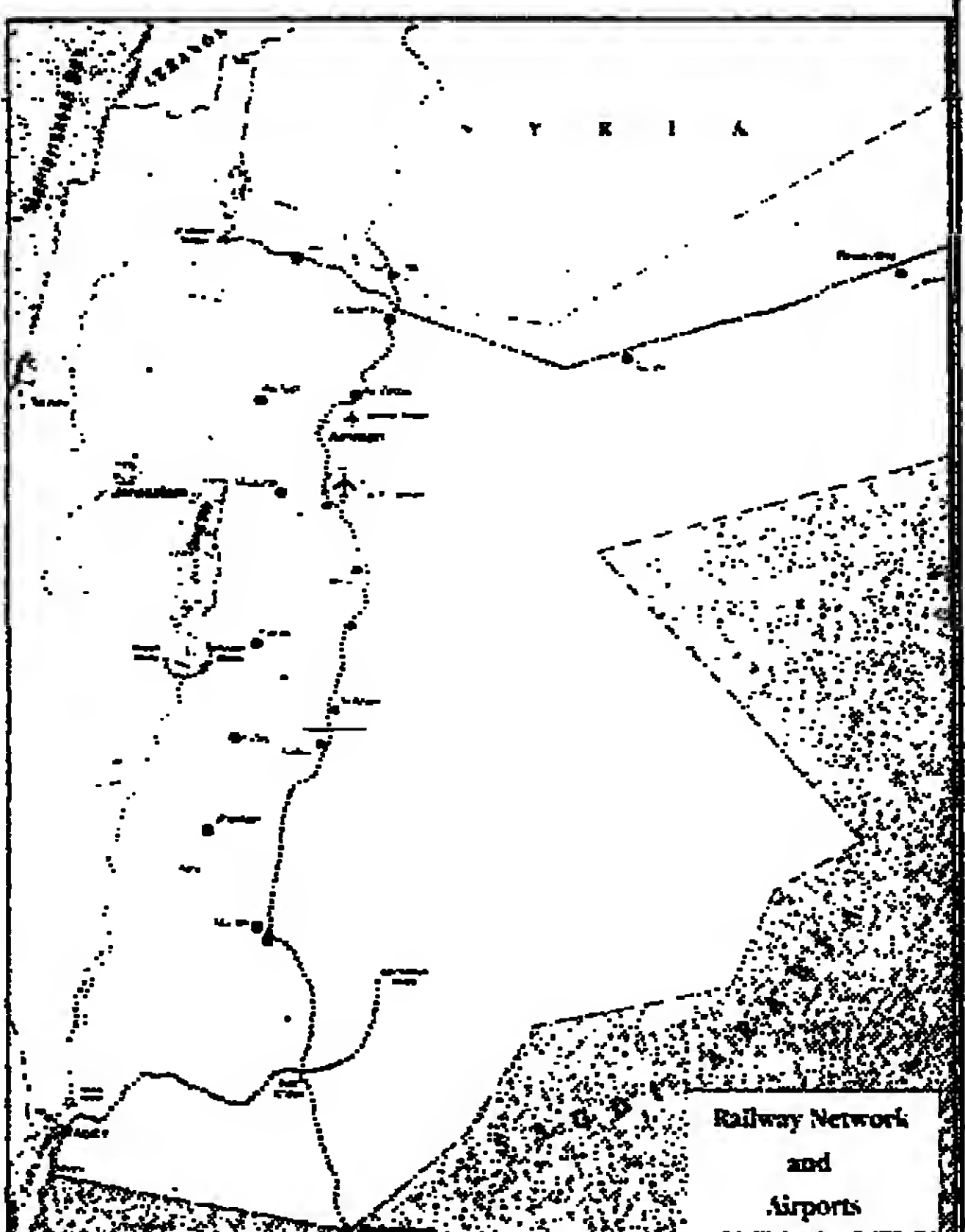
"Travel distance and time would be shortened and Suez Canal fees avoided for exports to the West. The infrastructure would also give a new impetus to potash production in Jordan."

Another national project of high priority is a \$60 million linkage between Al Shidiya mines with Aqaba.

Given that the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company intends to phase out production at the Al Ayyad and Al Hassa mines by the year 2000 and focus on Shidiya with a potential of eight to 10 million tonnes of phosphate every year, the project assumes high importance.

Travel distance between Shidiya and Aqaba would be cut by 75 kilometres when compared with roads. "Moreover," says the Ministry of Planning, "if phosphate is not transported from Shidiya by rail, then all previous investment in the railway system will be written off."

That is a reference to the funds that the government spent on rehabilitating and upgrading the rail link from Batn Al Ghoul and Aqaba which is capable of carrying five to six million tonnes of phosphate every year.



The proposal calls for linking the Shidiya mines with the Batn Al Ghoul-Aqaba railway, which now carries Al Ayyad and Al Hassa phosphates.

The Shidiya linkage involves laying 39 kilometres of track (main line) and nine kilometres of intermediate crossing loops and junctions.

Another similar project is a linkage between Aqaba and Wadi II, about 20 kilometres south of Aqaba,

on the coast, where the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company operates a major fertilizer complex. The project would cost about \$40 million.

Feasibility studies for three projects — Shidiya-Batn Al Ghoul, Amman-Syrian border and Aqaba-Wadi II — are expected to be ready in 1995. Estimated cost for the three projects is \$292 million; \$175 million in foreign currency and the rest in local currency.

King, Rabin to exchange treaties

(Continued from page 1)

will also be open for nationals from the two countries.

However, permissions will have to be obtained through travel agents in both countries pending the establishment of diplomatic relations and opening of embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv.

Trade and economic cooperation on a bilateral level is not expected to start in the short term, but projects whose output would be shared by the two countries are expected to formally launched soon. These mainly involve development of the Jordan Rift Valley and joint tourism projects.

Most of the projects were presented by Jordan and Israel at the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa held in Casablanca. Diplomats say that one of the considerations of both Jordan and Israel to accelerate the pace in their peace talks and conclude a peace treaty a week before the Casablanca was the realisation that proposing joint projects to international donors after concluding a peace agreement made better sense and logic.

The peace treaty calls for the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Jordan and Israel in one month after it was signed. That means a deadline of Nov. 26.

Israel has reportedly acquired a plot of land in the Abdou area near the U.S. embassy to build its own diplomatic mission.

Prime Minister Majali said in a newspaper interview published on Sunday that the government had not decided on a nominee to assume office in Tel Aviv as the Kingdom's ambassador.

In the peace treaty, Israel acknowledges Jordanian sovereignty over nearly 380 square kilometres of land the Jewish state has occupied since 1948 and also agrees to return the Kingdom's usurped water rights.

A small parcel of the land

where Israelis have developed agriculture has been leased to Israel for a renewable period of 25 years. This arrangement was one of the main provisions that opponents of the peace treaty targeted for criticism during the House debate leading to the endorsement of the accord by a majority who overrode the objections.

Water projects, including dams and a purification plant, are expected to be launched soon to ensure that Jordan gets its full share of the waters of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers. The financing for the high priority projects, estimated to cost about \$150 million, will come from the United States and the European Union.

The actual demarcation of Jordanian-Israeli borders is expected to take up to nine months and technical experts from the two sides would be continuing discussions and implementation of the demarcation agreement throughout the period.

In the meantime, Jordan and Israel would also be attending the various multilateral working groups of the Middle East peace process involving regional economic cooperation, disarmament and security, water sharing, environment and refugees.

At a different level, Jordan will also be attending meetings of a committee grouping the Kingdom with Israel, Egypt and the Palestine National Authority in Gaza and Jericho to discuss the problem of displaced Palestinians and Palestinian refugees.

Also continuing its functions will be the trilateral Jordanian-Israeli-American Committee which is directly in charge of development projects in the Jordan Valley.

"The peace treaty does not mean an end to all discussions on the various aspects of the peace process," commented a senior official. "In fact these aspects assume more importance than ever since these concern means of maintaining and nurturing peace in the region."

At the end of the tour, the Crown Prince had lunch with the units' personnel.

Senators debate treaty

(Continued from page 3)

the Oslo agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians was concluded without a minimum Arab coordination with the Palestinians in taking the decision.

Eight, when Jordan started to feel that there were attempts to marginalise it politically and started to feel ingratitude for its stands... it became inevitable for it to move in a direction that would guarantee that the Kingdom would restore its full political rights...

Nine, faced with all these facts, Jordan has moved to regain and restore its water and border rights without undermining Jordanian sovereignty and without giving up its stand on the need to find a just and comprehensive solution on all other Arab tracks.

Ten... I do not forget to thank the government and the negotiating Jordanian delegation for their efforts to complete the treaty which has become an inevitable necessity after hope in any Arab agreement to deal with pan-Arab issues was lost...

Every one should know that His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal has our absolute confidence in him and that we will respect any of his policies because we know that any action he takes aims only at serving the country and the people...

Ahmad Obaidat

I will tackle three points pertaining to the peace treaty: Water, the refugees and the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

First: The water issue.

As to the waters of the Yarmouk River, the treaty's annex on water offered Israel the right to what is called the Yarmouk Triangle — this is an area located between Lake Tiberias and the Yarmouk River and the Jordan River as well as the slopes of the Syrian Heights. These amount to 26,000 dunums in area, the allotted share for Israel amounted to 12 million cubic metres (mcm) of water annually in the summer and 13 million in winter.

In Jordan's point of view, Israel's share was earlier no more than a total of 17 million cubic metres both in summer and winter.

Agreement has been reached on allowing 20 mcm of Yarmouk River water for the Israelis during winter for storage, but there was no mention of the venue for storing the water. The Israelis averted mentioning Lake Tiberias at all, lest Jordan would in the future demand a right to the lake's water or consider the lake was an international water reservoir. The water allowed to the Israelis is of the very pure type, which Jordan should have kept and used without any interference from the either side.

Agreement was reached in

the provisions deal with unspecified amounts because the two sides lack accurate information about the actual amounts of water that might be available each year.

I wonder how Jordan will benefit from a mere total of 80 mcm as approved by the experts who negotiated the agreement.

The treaty also provides for Jordan to receive an additional 50 mcm annually through future Jordanian-Israeli cooperation processes. But the agreement states that the two sides will have to work out such cooperation and no one knows if Israel will commit itself to the deal.

I also wonder if other parties or governments are concerned with this subject.

Following are some of other remarks:

Whoever reads the annexes to the treaty will no doubt realise that the Israelis have prepared their homework well and secured Israel's rights unlike the Jordanian side. I ask here, who is responsible for this situation?

The treaty has enabled Israel to become a full partner in every process related to water and in every water share directly or indirectly.

In listening to the statements of the information minister one can wonder about his claim that Jordan obtained more than its original and legitimate share and rights. Why do the figures in the treaty not verify such a claim?

This treaty will place Jordan fully at Israel's mercy concerning its share in the waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, and also in the desalinated water and the process of pumping and pipelines as well as future projects in the Jordan Rift Valley.

I fear that future projects which are expected to run into billions of dollars will be carried out in vain unless strict control of the plans is imposed in advance.

Second: The refugees.

The provisions of the treaty constituted a clear departure from the Jordanian principled stands concerning the refugees and the displaced persons.

The government had instructed the negotiators since Madrid to emphasise the question of the refugees, but the treaty came as a surprise to everyone because it postponed discussion on this subject indefinitely.

Third: The Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.

The treaty should not have involved Jordan in matters that would harm relations with the Palestinians.

The treaty creates a controversy and dispute over the fate of the holy sites which are part of Jerusalem, which, in turn is part of the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

A provision in the treaty about Jordan's involvement in the holy sites could create a new Arab-Arab dispute between Jordan and Palestine, at a time when Israel con-

tinues to occupy Palestine and Jerusalem with all its Christian and Islamic sites.

With regard to this issue the treaty is bound to cause direct damage to Arab interests and could weaken Arab demand for the implementation of U.N. resolutions and would give Israel the justification to perpetuate its occupation over the holy city while we get embroiled in empty disputes.

I call for rectifying the situation and call on Arabs and Muslims to come up with a clear formula to deal with this question. I believe that a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement would put matters right.

Since I am not convinced of this treaty concerning Jordan's water rights, I decide not to support the government's position. I also would like to object to Article 8 concerning the refugees and displaced people, and also with regard to the holy places.

Hammad Al Ma'aitah

...Crucial decisions and decisive stands are issues that are facing the living nations continuously. The nations that desire life have to stand up to challenges. The nations which are strong in their faith, which confide in God and trust their leaderships, debate their causes seriously and rationally...

Those who do not take their decisions themselves at the right time will waste opportunities and others will occupy their places at the front lines. We are today facing a peace treaty which constitutes one of the grave challenges facing us in this steadfast country over the past decades, and at many times things might have reached a dangerous limit. After some had thought that we were inevitably finished, they were disappointed as we managed to overcome the crisis and emerge stronger...

The big question that arises is that to what extent can this country stay strong and remain a support of its nation? Would it be of help to any one in case it was weakened by sedition, or when its economy retreats or in case it was secluded from the world and the region?

Thus our first priority should be to protect ourselves and build our country because those who cannot help themselves cannot help others...

We have carefully studied and understood the committee's decision and the treaty's draft law... and found that the Jordanian negotiator was committed to the directives of King Hussein — sincere to the interest of the country and protective of the nation's rights. We also found that the negotiator has restored Jordan's water, land and security rights...

There's no doubt the treaty will create a new situation that we can face with determination and resolve.

Prince: Way clear for role

(Continued from page 1)

treaty would serve Arabs living in the occupied territories and Israel, emphasising that Jordan was still "the lung enabling our brethren to breathe."

"The linkage is not only a direct linkage with Israel, but, more importantly, it is a linkage across the bridges over which you stood for a quarter of a century wondering about what was happening beyond them or across the river. The linkage is with the Arab identity and the Arab people inside. The link-

age is an embodiment of the idea of building the bones of (this body constituting) the equation of two parties in this Arab-Jordanian-Palestinian lung."

Later, Prince Hassan toured the division's various units and was briefed on duties assigned to them.

He also watched training drills and lauded the performance of the division's units.

At the end of the tour, the Crown Prince had lunch with the units' personnel.

Save water ... every drop counts.

Egypt, IMF agree to resume formal negotiations

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have agreed to go back to formal negotiations that could lead to the Paris Club writing off \$4 billion in debt.

IMF Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fisher met Egyptian ministers in Cairo Tuesday evening for the most substantive talks since a ministerial mission to Washington in July failed to reach agreement on devaluing the Egyptian pound.

The main achievement was to improve the atmosphere and decide to restart the process, one official source said.

"They didn't quite agree on when there could be an IMF mission to Cairo but the clear signal was to keep talking after this lack of negotiations," he added.

Egypt's differences with the IMF are holding up a decision by the Paris Club of creditor nations to waive a third and last instalment of official debt under an agreement reached in 1991.

The most controversial dispute is over the value of the pound, which has been stable against the dollar for three years despite relatively high inflation in Egypt.

The IMF has argued in favour of devaluation but the Egyptian government, backed by a large section of the local business community, says this would undermine confidence in the economy and add to Egyptian inflation.

Official sources said the talks Tuesday did not go much into specifics but the disputes went beyond the exchange rate to include "structural" issues such as privatisation, trade reform and the Egyptian taxation system.

The IMF and other foreign economists say the exchange rate is frustrating the government's plan to raise the value

of exports from \$4 billion to \$10 billion a year by the year 2000.

It has not said how Egypt should set about devaluing the rate, which usually floats according to supply and demand.

But economists say the easiest way would be to manipulate interest rates down and reduce the incentive to hold deposits in Egyptian pounds rather than in foreign currencies.

On Tuesday, Egyptian Industry Minister Ibrahim Fawzi ruled out a sudden devaluation but left the door open for a gradual slide in value, coupled with falling interest rates.

"We are bringing the interest rates lower and lower... if this leads to a lower Egyptian pound, it will take place," he told Reuters.

"If you ask me frankly if (devaluation) will increase exports, yes. But... we will have to study the side-effects on the economy," the minister added.

The interest rate on three-month treasury bills stands at about 10.8 per cent, compared with about 14 per cent at the beginning of the year.

But economists say the substantially lower interbank rate shows that the treasury bill rate is artificially high, reinforcing the strength of the pound.

The pound has traded at between 3.40 and 3.30 to the dollar since the government let it float three years ago.

At first the central bank intervened to hold the pound down, building up foreign reserves which have reached \$17 billion.

But in recent months the flow of funds from abroad has slowed down and, immediately after the IMF talks in July, the central bank had to sell tens of millions of dollars to stop a speculative run on the pound.

PLO to inherit thousands more needy families

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — When Israel hands over responsibility for social welfare on the West Bank next week the Palestinians will inherit 10,000 more needy families and a monthly bill of \$700,000 a senior official said Wednesday.

"There are about 20,000 needy families in both Gaza and the West Bank they get aid each month as cash or checks or in kind," said deputy minister of social affairs Thabab Ayyush.

He told AFP that the 200 Palestinian employees of the Israeli military administration's social department would go on the authority's payroll.

The new department would need at least \$700,000 a month extra for the West Bank's 10,000 poor families and salaries.

In the Gaza Strip, the ministry had spent \$1.6 million in the last three months aiding 10,000 poor families, he said.

But Mr. Ayyush could not provide details of a budget. He said only that some of the money pledged by European donors would go to his ministry.

"Before autonomy in Gaza, the Israeli military administration used to pay the families using money collected from taxes from the occupied territories," he said adding that the Palestinians would do the same.

Following talks with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that Israel would devolve power for health, taxation, social welfare and tourism on the West Bank by the end of the month.

Dollar surges as market welcomes U.S. election result

LONDON (R) — The dollar bounded ahead on the foreign exchanges Wednesday as markets warmly greeted the resounding victory by Republicans in Tuesday's U.S. mid-term elections.

Currency dealers cited a general sense of relief for the dollar as political uncertainty was removed and expectations were raised that President Bill Clinton would now need to take a more conservative fiscal stance.

President Clinton lost control of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives but the dollar did not suffer from fears that the president may now find it far harder to govern.

"The result was perceived beforehand as dollar negative as it implied gridlock. However, it has bounced since," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at Japanese bank DKB International in London.

"We could see a slightly firmer dollar as the market

takes the view in the short term that even though there is gridlock it will result in Clinton having to shift more to the centre, particularly in terms of his fiscal policy," said Mr. Lyons.

A more conservative fiscal policy by Mr. Clinton could help reduce the swollen U.S. federal deficit, which would bolster U.S. assets like U.S. government bonds. That in turn would boost the dollar, analysts said.

The dollar was trading at 1.5285 marks and 97.96 yen at 1200 GMT, up sharply from Tuesday's late European levels of 1.5073 and 96.91.

Adrian Schmidt, international economist at Chase Investment Bank in London, said: "There are two years of policy gridlock ahead but at the moment the markets seem to be taking it pretty much in their stride."

Some said they started to sense a shift in dollar sentiment.

"I think increasingly the market's taking the view, and certainly we are here, that the dollar is close to forming a base," said Brian Martin, economist at Citibank in London.

The market generally expects the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) to hike interest rates, probably by 50 basis points, at the meeting of its Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) next Tuesday.

Dealers said in the run-up to the FOMC meeting they would be wary of running short dollar positions amid lingering fears the Fed might repeat last week's dollar buying spree.

They noted there was some talk of Fed intervention in the Far East Wednesday morning. But they were generally sceptical there had been any such action and said the talk was probably sparked by orders from commercial buyers.

EU 'single currency' unlikely before 1999, Lamfalussy says

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The European Union (EU) is unlikely to be able to take the final step towards a single currency before 1999, the president of the future European central bank Alexandre Lamfalussy said Wednesday.

Mr. Lamfalussy, who heads the European Monetary Institute, told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper that there was little chance of several countries being ready for the third and final stage of economic and monetary union in 1997.

This is the earliest date for the final step, involving the creation of a single currency, laid down by the treaty of Maastricht on European economic and political union. The latest date is Jan. 1999.

The treaty states that if the union is to move to the third stage in 1997 at least seven members of the union must by then have achieved targets for convergence of their economies.

If seven countries are not ready the third stage would be applied in 1999.

Mr. Lamfalussy said: "When we begin the third stage it will not be with all of the countries (of the union). This is quite clear."

And it was unthinkable that the final stage would be launched without the participation of Germany and France.

Last month, Mr. Lamfalussy, and separately the president of the German central Bundesbank Hans Tietmeyer, made statements implying clearly that they expected the so-called "single currency" to exist for a long period alongside national currencies.

A few days before, Mr. Tietmeyer had said: "It is highly likely that there will be a period of transition with national currencies."

Iran to double domestic fuel prices from March

TEHRAN (R) — Parliament voted on Tuesday to double fuel prices from next March despite warnings about its inflationary effect.

Deputies voted for the rise after a heated debate in which Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh pleaded that he needed the extra revenue to implement major projects in the industry which is Iran's major hard cash earner through crude oil exports.

The fuel price rise is included in Iran's second five-year development plan for the period starting March 21, 1995, under which President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government aims to cut state subsidies substantially.

According to the parliamentary decision, prices of four oil products would double from March 21 for a year. In the four subsequent years the government may raise

prices to generate a maximum extra revenue of 11 trillion rials (\$3 billion). After doubling, a litre of petrol would cost 100 rials (six U.S. cents), still far below international prices.

Diesel and kerosene would cost 20 rials (one cent) a litre, and fuel oil half as much. The article says the government should halve the annual growth of consumption of oil products to three per cent.

Parliament also voted for an annual 20 per cent rise in domestic natural gas rates, Tehran Radio said.

Iranian officials say low fuel prices have encouraged waste and smuggling and set consumption on a course which if unchecked would mean that the second biggest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would have no oil to export in 15

years. But in remarks to parliament on Monday against a proposal from the floor to scrap the fuel price rise, the minister stressed the immediate cash needs of oil projects.

"We have to start up Bandar Abbas oil refinery next year. Offshore platforms have to start producing. Omitting this article will suspend all the tasks you have set up regarding production and domestic consumption," Mr. Aghazadeh said.

"How can we generate revenue if we do not start up such projects?... what can I do?" he asked.

Parliamentarians said the proposed plan envisaged nearly \$73 billion in oil export revenue over the next five years.

The overall revenue and expenditure figures are expected to be approved at the end of the debate, probably next week.

The Guardian Council has then to ratify the plan for it to become law.

Some deputies said the fuel price rise made meaningless a much publicised government campaign to fight profiteers and to lower prices.

"If we approve this article we should drop all our arguments about rising prices and profiteering. People will hold us responsible," Deputy Ahmad Rasoulnejad said.

He quoted a study by the Education Ministry as concluding that a teacher's buying power last year was 25 per cent of what it had been in 1979.

"Such articles are an imposition on the poor. They will have nothing left after paying for fuel and utilities," he added.

China warns it will become a 'gorilla' without GATT

BEIJING (AFP) — China has warned that it could be an uncontrolled "gorilla" that trampled over global trade rules if the United States continued to block its reentry to GATT, the China Daily said.

"Denial of GATT access could turn into a 900-pound gorilla unbound by the marshalling forces of a world trading system," the China Daily Business Weekly quoted senior trade scholar at Beijing's University of International Business and Economics Chu Xiangyin as saying.

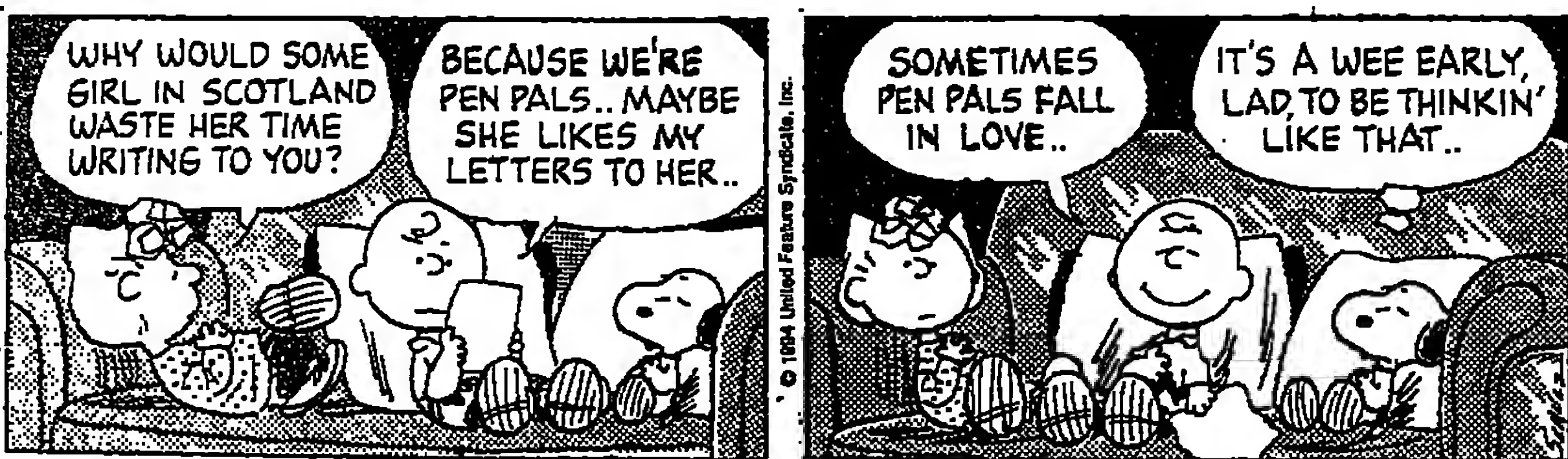
Mr. Chu's warning was echoed by Assistant Foreign

Trade Minister Long Yongtu. "The U.S. should take stock of its medium- and long-term commercial benefit in China, not just the short-term ones," Mr. Long was quoted as saying.

China was a founding member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947 but withdrew after the communists came to power in 1949.

It applied to rejoin in 1986 and has been pushing to be accepted by the end of the year, in time to become a founding member of the World Trade Organisation that is to replace GATT in January 1995.

Peanuts



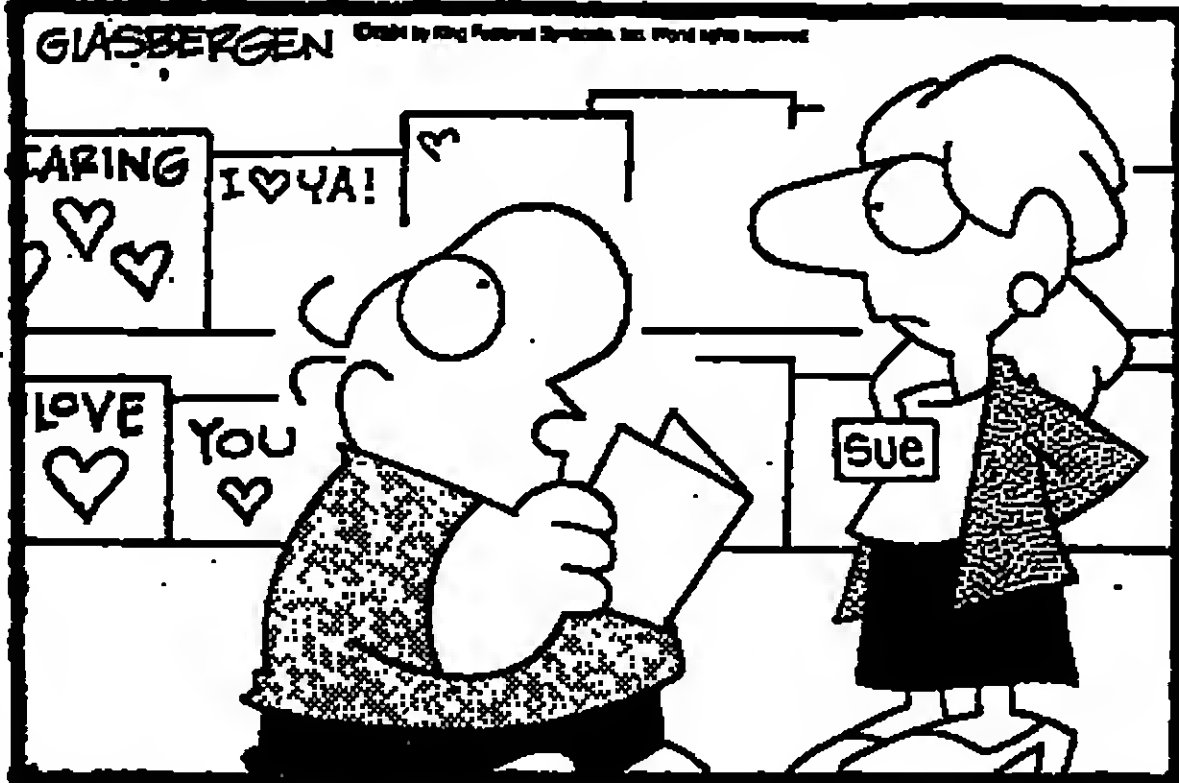
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



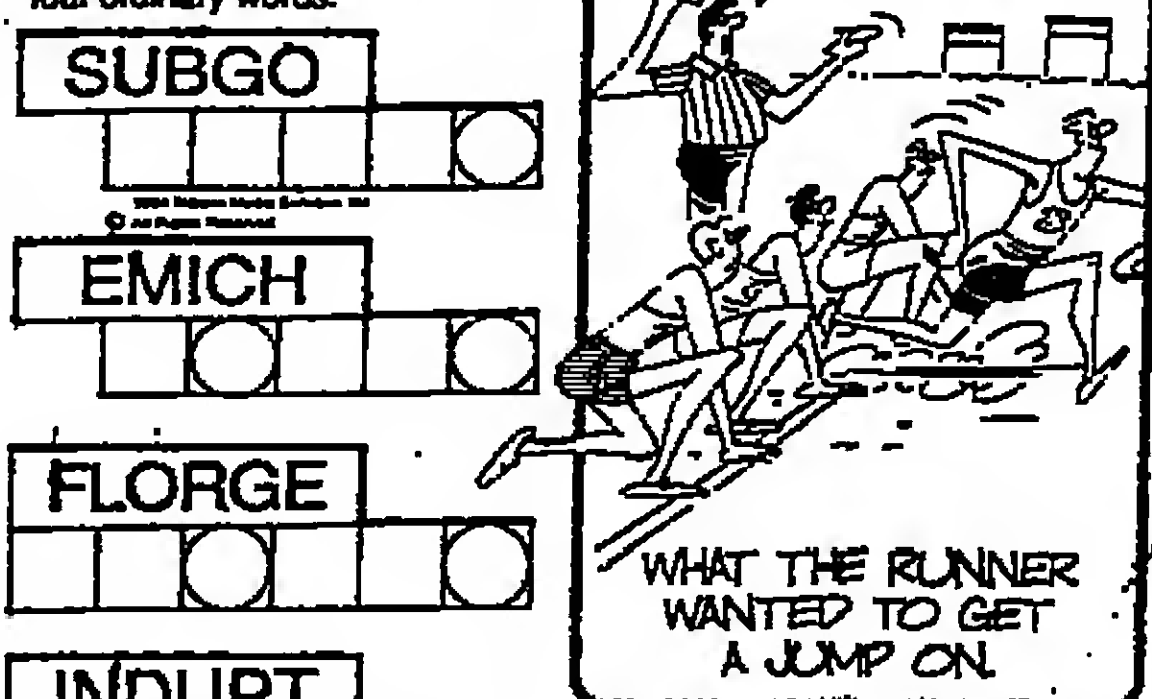
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I want a card to tell my wife I love her more than anything else in the world. Got any cheaper ones?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE _____

Saturday's Jumble: CHALK PROVE FORGET HORROR Answer: What the cop moonlighting as an actor was known as — A REAL TROOPER

SALE 36%

DAJANI'S

"JEWELLERS"

On ALL Non Gold Items.

NOT FOR EVER!!

Amra Hotel Shops

6th Circle

Amman

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Rights Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have the force and the drive to put into effect your strongest intentions and to channel all that energy so that it can be released wisely and provide the best results. Complete mental work.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to get any business affairs completed quickly after breakfast but take your time and you soon find they are easily solved calmly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't try to push an associate early to make a decision but you soon find that persons come around to your position and an agreement is possible.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can't seem to get the right creative idea early but persist as the day advances you find you sparkle and see new ways to put your ideas across.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You want to take a risk or a chance at something important to you and there is a good chance it can be ok, if you do not commit yourself in the morning.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You find it necessary to use much tact and patience at home early although later conditions lift and are amenable to your making big progress in gaining aims.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You certainly need to be watchful of accidents early in the day although later you are able to dash about and get much of value accomplished.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) You are awoken with a determination to do something of a very personal nature but think it over and doubt-check that it is ok before putting in motion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are awoken with a determination to do something of a very personal nature but think it over and doubt-check that it is ok before putting in motion.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You would be wise to get off alone as much as possible with the one you love the most for you can have a very understanding and romantic time.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: End this week by concentrating upon home affairs of importance and making the arrangements that will please all concerned. Increase your prestige with neighbours in your community. Go along with the plan.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A very good day to wind up whatever business by which you will be able to bring more charm and efficiency to your surroundings so lose no time in doing so.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your day to have a ball, get out with congenial companions to those interests and entertainments at which you are and they can be happy.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your time to be home with members of your family and enjoying the warmth and attractiveness of your own dwelling. Doing things you like most.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your interest in getting out and seeing and having discussions with close business and personal companions can yield you very good results now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Take some time out to consider your personal property and what you can do to improve it and make it more valuable and put this plan in motion at once.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Consider now what your needs are that will make you happiest in the days ahead and go right after getting with your magnetism and well balanced views.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You would be wise to get off alone as much as possible with the one you love the most for you can have a very understanding and romantic time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider what your friends and acquaintances with whom you feel most at harmony and arrange times and places to see, enjoy their society.

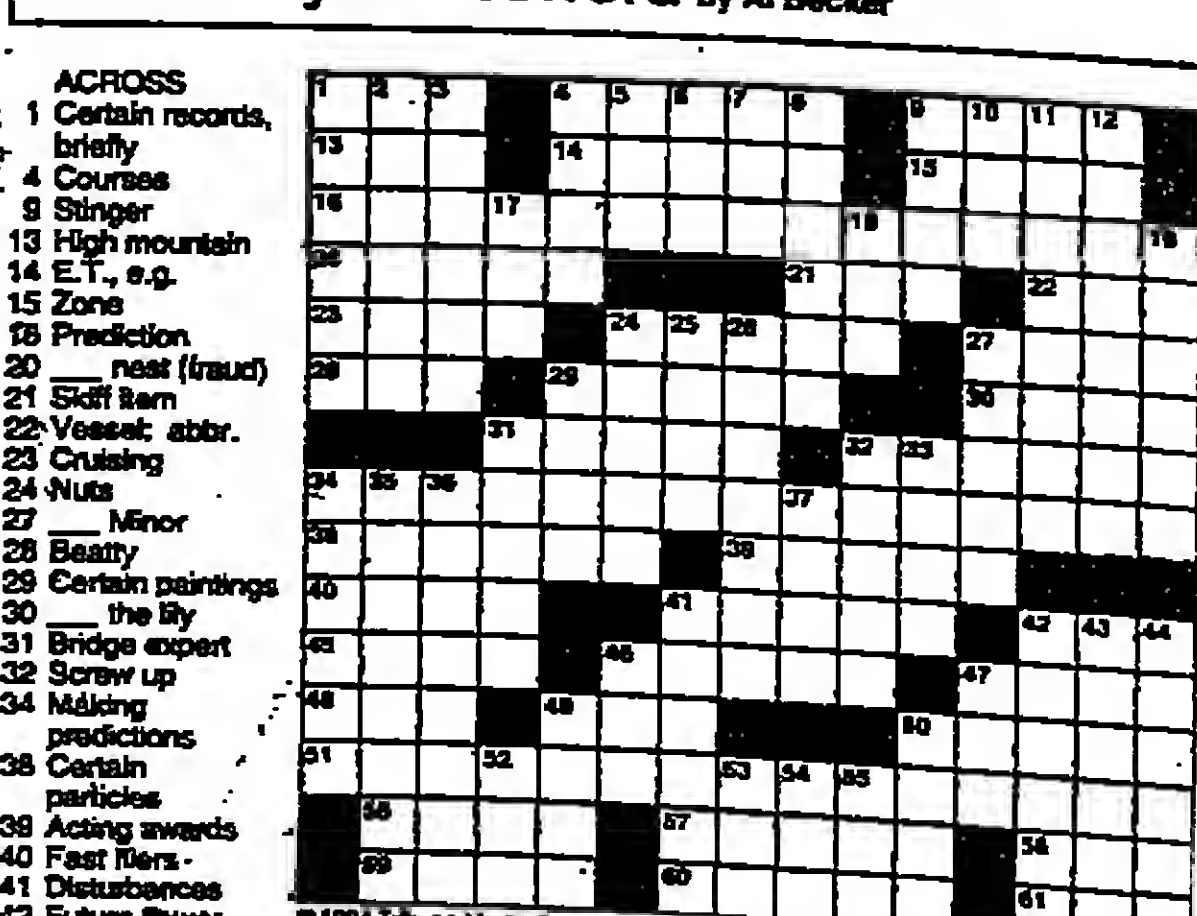
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) Even though today is Sunday, today is your oyster in the world of outside activity so make plans to things in public that can add to your good will and name.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 21) Loss of interesting new outlets await your acceptance both in publications, personalities as in taking some trip to an interesting place.

PISCES: (February 22 to March 21) Be with your close attachment as much as possible today and join forces in an undertaking which both of you are thoroughly enamoured with.

Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker



ACROSS
1 Certain records, briefly
2 Course
3 Slinger
4 High mountain
5 E.T., e.g.
6 Zone
7 Prediction
8 "I see" (four)
9 Sign term
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DOWN
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2 Satisfy
3 Let off the hook
4 Cheese
5 Cheer
6 Make public
7 Pledge
8 abn.
9 Misapprehension
10 Mar or Buddy
11 Traveler
12 Historic prison
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Print answer here: THE _____

Saturday's Jumble: CHALK PROVE FORGET HORROR Answer: What the cop moonlighting as an actor was known as — A REAL TROOPER

LE 36%
AJANI'S
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No Gold Items
FOR EVER!!
Hotel Shops
6th Circle
Amman

OSCOPH
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1994
Amman

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Amman

OSCOPH
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1994
Amman

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.6184	1.6185
Deutsche Mark	1.5085	1.5118
Swiss Franc	1.2610	1.2633
French Franc	5.1845	5.2037**
Japanese Yen	97.10	97.24
European Currency Unit	1.2590	1.2544**

* 100 per \$100
** European Closing 10:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates
Date: 9/11/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.00	5.50	5.87	6.25
Sterling Pound	5.00	5.93	6.37	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.93	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	5.50	5.75	5.93	6.31
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.65	6.15
Japanese Yen	5.12	5.18	5.31	5.62
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.95	6.22	6.78

Interbank bid rates for amount currency 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 9/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1185	1.1241
Deutsche Mark	0.3573	0.4596
Swiss Franc	0.5467	0.5494
French Franc	0.1331	0.1338
Japanese Yen	0.7110	0.7146
Dutch Guilder	0.4653	0.4700
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies
Date: 9/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6270	1.6310
Lebanese Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Saudi Riyal	0.1537	0.1555
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3100	3.3700
Omani Riyal	0.1585	0.1590
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7542	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1576	0.1595
Greek Drachma	0.0000	0.0000
Cypriot Pound	1.0000	1.5250

Citibank to expand operations in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Citibank vice chairman Paul Collins said Wednesday that the bank was committed towards developing its operations in Jordan.

Mr. Collins spoke following a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in the presence of Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi.

Mr. Collins said he had useful and fruitful discussions with the prime minister about Citibank operations and stressed that the bank was willing to provide Jordan with expertise in



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (left) Collins (center) outlining the expected role of the bank in the region (Petra photo)

the banking business and ensure more capital flow to the Kingdom.

He said that Citibank had the desire to contribute to the Kingdom's economic development. Dr. Majali said Jordan

was keen on ensuring increased activities and operations by financial institutions in Jordan to cope with the expected economic development in the coming stage of peace in the region.

The prime minister said that peace was bound to create a better climate for commerce and industry in the area. Mr. Collins called on the prime minister one day after the formal inauguration of a branch

for Citibank in Amman. The branch, located in Abdoun, was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Al Abdullah in the presence of Mr. Collins and U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan, among other invited guests.

A Citibank official said the Abdoun branch was the second in Amman after the Jabal Amman office which was opened 20 years ago.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
BID/ASK RATES FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY
DATE: 9/11/1994

CURRENCY	BID	ASK
U.S. DOLLAR	0.6920	0.6940
STERLING POUND	1.1185	1.1241
DEUTSCHE MARK	0.3573	0.4596
SWISS FRANC	0.5467	0.5494
FRENCH FRANC	0.1331	0.1338
JAPANESE YEN	0.7110	0.7146
DUTCH GUILDER	0.4653	0.4700
SWEDISH KRONA	0.0000	0.0000
ITALIAN LIRA	0.0445	0.0447
BELGIAN FRANC	0.0000	0.0000

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3544/54	Canadian dollar
	1.5252/62	Deutsche marks
	1.7104/14	Dutch guilders
	1.2756/66	Swiss francs
	31.41/45	Belgian francs
	5.2410/30	French francs
	1568.09/0	Italian lire
	97.86/96	Japanese yen
	7.3350/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6610/60	Norwegian crowns
	5.9750/00	Danish crowns
	31.6060/70	
One sterling		
One ounce of gold	\$383.65/384.05	

Indo-Jordanian company secures \$100m financing

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Indo-Jordanian Chemical Company has secured financing worth \$100 million for its proposed \$170 million plant at Shidiya in southern Jordan, a senior official of the company said Wednesday.

Babu Varghese, deputy chairman and managing director of the company, a joint venture between Indian and Jordanian firms, said the loan agreements completed all financing arrangements for the plant, and the facility should start producing phosphoric acid in early 1997.

Mr. Varghese, who represents the Southern Indian Petrochemicals Industry Corporation (SPIC) which holds 52 per cent of the joint venture's \$70 million capital, said the loans were from Credit Commerce de France (\$54 million), the International Finance Corporation (\$30 million), a Dutch investment house (\$10 million) and a consortium of local banks (\$6 million in local currency).

The external loans carry a flat annual interest rate of 10.5 per cent. Repayments will be made in 15 equal instalments starting in the 18th month after the plant starts production.

The Shidiya plant will produce 220,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid every year. The entire production, worth about \$80 million at current market prices, will be exported to India, one of the largest importers of fertilizer and related products.

The plant will be built by Krebs and Cie of France under a \$120 million turnkey contract signed in October 1993. The contract states that the project will be handed over in 30



Babu Varghese

months from the date of the company making a down payment.

The downpayment was made on Nov. 3, Mr. Varghese told the Jordan Times. Technically, the plant should be ready to start commercial operations in May 1997, but Mr. Varghese said he expected it to come earlier because Krebs and Cie had started engineering works four or five months ago.

Mr. Varghese explained that the launching of the building and installation phase of the project could not come earlier since international financiers were not very enthusiastic about extending finance to the project.

However, with an upturn in the international fertilizer market and prospects of peace in the Middle East appeared to have convinced the financiers this time around.

The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company holds 35 per cent of the joint venture's capital. The rest is held by the Saudi Arabia-based Arab Investment Corporation, which groups 15 Arab countries.

The plant is expected to employ about 350 people, the bulk of them Jordanians, Mr. Varghese said.

The Indo-Jordanian Chemicals Company Limited is the largest joint venture in fertilizer production in Jordan, which has been given increased attention to fertilizers and intermediate products in recent years because of a depression in the international market for rock phosphates.

A Japanese consortium in partnership with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), is also building a compound fertilizer plant in the south under a \$60 million capital joint venture. Again, the entire production of the plant will be exported to Japan.

The JPMC is also a shareholder in a major fertilizer plant in Pakistan which will use Jordanian rock phosphate.

India is the largest importer of Jordanian phosphates for processing at its own processing plants and the joint venture enshrines a "unique concept where both sides stand to benefit immensely," Mr. Varghese said.

He noted that SPIC, the sixth or seventh largest Indian company with diversified production facilities including petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, biochemicals, fertilizers, electronics etc., was prompted to launch the joint venture with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company because of high demand for phosphoric acid around the world.

SPIC holds a small share in a phosphoric acid plant in Senegal, Morocco, the second largest exporters of phosphates in 1993 after the United States (Jordan is the third), has nearly a dozen phosphoric acid plants.

Phosphoric acid is an intermediate fertilizer product derived from processing rock phosphates with sulphuric acid. It is used in the final processing of diammonium phosphate, a fertilizer largely used by most of the agriculture-based Third World countries.

The Shidiya plant will have a sulphur processing plant to produce sulphuric acid and another to process rock phosphates with sulphuric acid to produce phosphoric acid. Sulphur for the plant will be imported, Mr. Varghese said. Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran are the major producers of sulphur in the immediate region. Syria also produces sulphur but its exports of the product are limited.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Kareem Abdul Jabbar nominated for Basketball Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, one of the most dominant forces in the history of the National Basketball Association, was among nine men and two women nominated Monday for the Basketball Hall of Fame.

"It is a real thrill to receive this nomination as early as I have," said Abdul-Jabbar, who became eligible for the Hall of Fame this year. "I am truly honored."

Also nominated as players were former Boston Celtics defensive ace Tom "Satch" Sanders; Arnie Risen, who played on NBA championship teams with both Rochester and Boston; Vern Mikkelsen, one of NBA's first power forwards with the Minneapolis Lakers of the 1950s, and

Kresimir Cosic, a former Yugoslavian star, nominated by the international committee.

Tabbed as coaches were Gene Shue, who had a knack for turning struggling franchises into winners during his 22 years of coaching in the NBA; John Kundla, who coached the Minneapolis Lakers to six titles in the 1940s and 1950s; and Alexander Gomelsky, the longtime Soviet coach whose 1988 squad won the Olympic gold medal. Gomelsky also was nominated by the international committee.

Anne Donovan, the standout centre from Old Dominion, who led the U.S. women's team to two Olympic gold medals, Gomelsky also was nominated by the international committee.

Anne Donovan, the standout centre from Old Dominion, who led the U.S. women's team to two Olympic gold medals, and Cheryl Miller, who led Southern California to a pair of NCAA championships, were proposed



Kareem Abdul Jabbar by the women's committee. Miller now coaches USC's women's team.

The late Earl Strom, who officiated 29 NBA championship games during his 32-year career was nominated as a referee. He died July 10 at age 66.

To be elected, a nominee needs 18 votes from the 24-member honours committee. The committee is to

vote in February, with induction ceremonies scheduled May 15.

"He was the most amazing player ever," said Hall of Fame President Joe O'Brien said of Abdul-Jabbar. "Players usually peak at a certain level...but Kareem was great at every level — high school, college and the pros. He's the NBA all-time scoring leader, but he was also a defensive force and a better passer than many realize."

Or, as hall of famer Connie Hawkins put it: "You'd play in front of him and they would throw the ball over the top to him. You'd play behind him and he'd throw a hook shot over your head. You'd double team him and he'd hit the open man. After that, forget it."

When Abdul-Jabbar retired after the 1988-89 season, he was the NBA's leading career scorer with 38,387 regular-season and 5,762 playoff points. He also established records for games played (1,797), field goals made (15,837) and blocked shots (3,189).

Gullit to return to Sampdoria

ROME (R) — Troubled Italian champions AC Milan agreed Wednesday to return Dutch scorer Ruud Gullit to first division Sampdoria, a Milan spokesman said.

In return, the Genoa-based Sampdoria striker Alessandro Melli, 24, will go to Milan. The spokeswoman declined to say how long the deal would last.

"An agreement has been reached, but still needs to be signed," she said. Further details would be released later Wednesday once the deal had been completed, she added.

The agreement was struck with only hours to spare before Wednesday's 7 p.m. (1800 GMT) close of the transfer market and a final agreement would have to be signed by then.

The dreadlocked Gullit, 32, whose transfer was widely expected, returned to Milan last September after a season at Sampdoria.

Gullit collected 15 goals for Sampdoria but has scored only three times for Milan this season.

U.S. versus the world in figure skating's ice wars

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Imagine getting the women's gold medalists from each of the last four Olympics into the same event. Spice it up with the men's winners from 1988 and 1992, plus a four-time world champion and perhaps the most popular skater in America.

Put them together in a United States vs. the world spectacular, and you have ice wars, which begins Wednesday at Nassau Coliseum with the technical programmes. The finals will be held in Providence Saturday night.

"This is a kind of concept that figure skating is embracing, because of the popularity of the sport," said Kurt Browning of Canada, the four-time world champion. "We've kind of reached a time when we can take advantage of that popularity with competitions like this."

"It's a great opportunity for us to build on what the Olympics started," added Browning, who will join Germany's Katarina Witt (1984) and 1988 Olympic gold medalist, Babi (1984 winner) and Petenko (1992) of Ukraine on the world team. "and we can set something special started with the team competition."

Representing the United States will be Olympic gold medalists Kristi Yamaguchi (1992) and Brian Boitano (1988) and silver medalists Paul Wylie (1992) and Nancy Kerrigan (1994).

This will be Kerrigan's first



U.S. Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerrigan answering questions from the press (AFP photo)

major appearance since the Lillehammer games and the circus surrounding her and Tonya Harding. She spent the last few months in an ice show for Disney, making a workout video and "trying to get back to normal."

"I'm not sure when it will be normal again."

It is normal for a sport — and television — to build on the kind of attention figure skating received last winter. An unofficial tour of competitions is underway, and the television network CBS is involved in a handful of them.

The enhanced schedule for the professional skaters has left some of them uncertain about how to arrange their personal itineraries.

"It's definitely the busiest year I've had," said Wylie, whose popularity since finishing runner-up to Petenko at Albertville in 1992

has continued to rise. "We've never been faced with so many competitions."

"It's a bit difficult to be rehearsing for our tour and competing, working on programmes for competition and on our numbers for the shows," he said. "It would be easier if we pushed the tour back if these competitions are being held so early, or vice-versa."

"But it's a great opportunity for our sport. It's growing so rapidly and we have to be prepared to grow with it. This is an uncertain time because of all the new competitions. We're trying to find a balance, and it could take a few years."

There will be no individual winners in ice wars. Each skater's technical and free skate programmes will be added to those of their teammates.

Dumars leads Pistons past Timberwolves

DETROIT (R) — Joe Dumars broke out of a two-game shooting slump by tying an NBA record for three-pointers in a game with 10

as the Detroit Pistons cruised to a 126-112 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves Tuesday.

Dumars scored 40 points and tied the record set by Brian Shaw of the Miami Heat in April, 1993.

Minnesota held a 24-23 lead in the first quarter, when Dumars hit three straight three-pointers to open a 32-24 lead after one quarter.

The Timberwolves then started the second quarter by shooting 1-of-12 from the field as Detroit built a 51-33 lead with 6:06 remaining in the half and never looked back.

In Cleveland, Hakeem Olajuwon's jumper with 3.1 seconds remaining lifted the Houston Rockets to a 100-98 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Cleveland's Mark Price tied the game at 98 on a three-pointer from the top of the key with 20 seconds left. Olajuwon hit a fadeaway 10-footer for the game-winner. Olajuwon finished with 21 points and eclipsed the team record for career points with 17,962. Calvin Murphy set the previous mark with 17,949 points.

In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 24 points, including five during a 13-4 fourth-quarter run, and had seven blocks as the New York

Nicks rallied from a 20-point deficit to beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 117-113, in their home opener.

John Starks, who agreed to a contract extension before the game, scored 23 points, including a pair of free throws with 2.2 seconds left that sealed the Knicks' fifth straight victory over Lakers.

In Dallas, Dikembe Mutombo had the first triple-double of the NBA season with 12 points, 14 rebounds and 11 blocks, and Rodney Rogers scored a career-high 28 points as the Denver Nuggets held off a late rally to beat the Dallas Mavericks, 115-107.

Denver had a 12-3 run in a span of just under four minutes to assume a 111-98 lead with 2:29 remaining.

But the Mavericks scored the next nine points of the game, the first seven of which came from Jim Jackson, to pull within 111-107 with 39.1 seconds left. Robert Pack then hit four foul shots to seal the win for Denver.

At Golden State, Latrell Sprewell scored 13 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter and the Golden State Warriors used a 7-0 run in a 49-second span in the final period to beat the Miami Heat, 121-114.

The Warriors have won all three of their games this season and the Heat have lost three.

Glen Rice led the Heat with 31 points, including 12 in

the fourth quarter.

Pippen responds to controversies

Scottie Pippen likes playing alongside Toni Kukoc and wants Chicago Bulls' fans to forget about his pulling out of a playoff game in the final seconds.

Those were the major points the National Basketball Association all-star forward made in an extensive interview published in Tuesday's USA Today.

The veteran addressed living in the shadow of retired NBA star Michael Jordan as well as his reported problems with Kukoc and his self-benching with 1.8 seconds remaining in a playoff game after Kukoc was assigned a final shot.

"Last season was an important one for me," Pippen said. "I performed at a high level and with Michael gone, I think even my peers finally got the opportunity to see what type player I am instead of just thinking I was fishing off Michael's hook."

Pippen said he is trying to instruct Kukoc the way Jordan taught him.

"I owe a great deal to Michael. He was a great influence on me, like I try to be on Toni Kukoc. But for some reason, people take that the wrong way," Pippen said.

"When I push Toni, try to make him better like Michael did me, people look at it wrong and assume I dislike him."



Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen (left) goes up against Philadelphia's Clarence Weatherspoon (AFP photo)

"I honestly enjoy talking to Toni and trying to teach him how to be a better player. I want us to have the same thing going Michael and I had."

Pippen said his unhappiness came from the way team executives chased Kukoc while ignoring him.

"The problems I had with Toni weren't personal," Pippen said. "I objected to the way they were pursuing him and offering him so much money and I was here helping us win championships and had to wait for a new contract."

Pippen quit a playoff game against New York after a final play was designed to get

Kukoc a shot and use Pippen as a decoy.

"I needed to get a point across. I did and I have moved on," Pippen said. "A lot of people still can't get past it, though. It's not that I didn't want to play. It was my competitiveness, not selfishness."

"I don't expect people to understand. I might hear about it the rest of my life, but I got my point across."

"I'm not by any means Larry Bird, Magic Johnson or Michael. But I have done a lot of good things. Yet I have to deal with so much criticism. I try not to let it bother me. But it makes me wonder."

Djibouti and Eritrea to make footballing debut

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Djibouti and Eritrea, the two newest members of the African footballing family, will make their international debuts in this month's East and Central African Senior Challenge Cup, it was announced Wednesday.

The two countries will play in the 11-nation tournament in Kenya from Nov. 26 to Dec. 10, Kenya Football Federation (KFF) officials said.

The national team of Somalia, who have not played an international match since 1986, have also entered the tournament.

Djibouti were admitted as a FIFA member at soccer's world governing body's congress in Chicago in June, while Eritrea were accepted as members of the confederation of African football earlier this year and are expected to be granted full FIFA membership at the next congress.

The tournament serves as a warm-up for Kenya, who are due to stage the 1996 African Nations Cup finals.

The home team have been drawn in Group A with Eritrea and Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi and Tanzania meet in Group B.

Holders Uganda, who won the last tournament in Tanzania two years ago, play in Group C with Djibouti and Zambia.

Somalia, whose last game saw them beaten 5-0 by Uganda more than eight years ago, the Seychelles and Kenya B team will play in Group D, with the winners going through to the semifinals.

The final will be played in Nairobi Dec. 10, a KFF official said in a telephone interview.

Two notable absentees are Zambia and Zimbabwe, both previous winners of the competition.

Vogts' policy could backfire

BONN (R) — Germany coach Berti Vogts, whose job will be in danger if the former world champions continue to struggle, has decided to play safe with his squad for next week's opening European Championship qualifier in Albania.

Vogts, who announced his squad Tuesday, kept faith with 12 players involved in Germany's disappointing World Cup but refused to include in-form playmaker Bernd Schuster.

Former Barcelona midfielder Schuster is eager to play international football for the first time 10 years.

The conservative policy could backfire, however, if the old faces fail again in a difficult game in Tirana following lacklustre performances in friendlies in Russia and Hungary.

A defeat would almost certainly mean the end in charge for the 47-year-old trainer, who was heavily criticised after Germany's

quarter-final World Cup exit at the hands of Bulgaria. But he could be accused of being over-cautious by ignoring 34-year-old Schuster yet including Werder Bremen's Dieter Eits, who is inexperienced at international level despite his 29 years.

Vogts countered the critics by saying he did not need Schuster because he already had Matthias Sammer, Andy Moeller and Thomas Haessler as playmakers.

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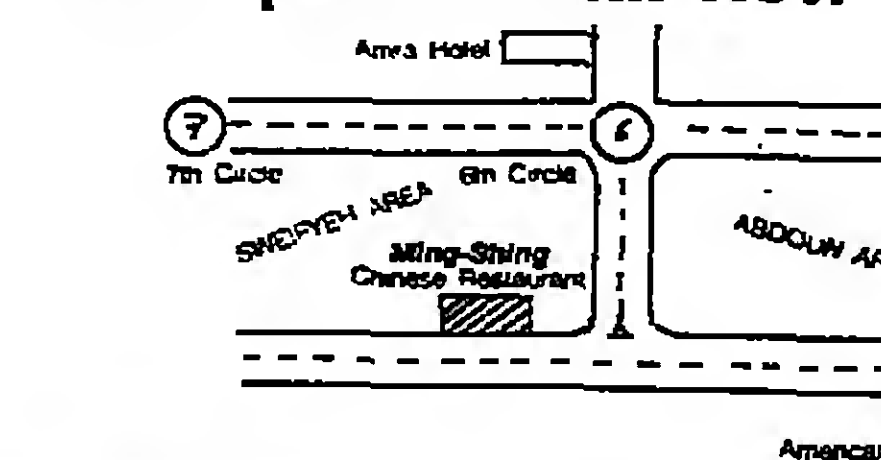
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LOSE THE RIGHT TRICKS
call in clubs and then compete further. The final contract is beyond reproach.

You have earned our admiration if you decided that declarer lost three club tricks and no more! Here's how the play proceeded. Declarer won the diamond shift with the ace, cashed the king of hearts to draw the enemy trumps, then led the ten of clubs from dummy, discarding a diamond from hand. West could not shift to a spade and to lead the remaining high club would set up the table's ten of clubs. So West was forced to exit with a diamond, ruffed by declarer.

Dummy was entered with the nine of hearts and the ten of clubs was led, declarer paring with the low spade. West won, but was end-played. We have already seen that a spade shift is useless; a club allows declarer to discard the queen of spades on dummy's eight of club and a diamond permits declarer to ruff on the board and discard the queen of spades from hand.

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 5 2
♥ K J 9 2
♦ 10 9 8 4
EAST
♠ K 9 4
♥ J 10 8 7
♦ 3
♣ Q 8 7 3
SOUTH
♠ A Q 3
♥ A 10 8 7 6 5
♦ 6 5
♣ Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 2♣ 2♥ 2♠
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Have you always had a secret yearning to emulate those fictional sleuths who find the answer to every puzzle presented to them? Test your analytical powers on this bridge puzzle. These are the facts: South became declarer at four hearts. West led the king of clubs and shifted to a diamond at trick two. The contract was made. Which three tricks did the defenders get?

West's decision to double with only three spades meets with this department's approval: the West hand is not strong enough to over-

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Iranian planes strike at Kurd rebel base in Iraq

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said its fighter planes raided guerrilla bases in Iraq on Wednesday. An Iranian Kurdish rebel party said one of its camps inside a Western "no-fly" zone in Iraqi Kurdistan was pounded by Iranian planes.

Four Iranian fighter planes "severely bombed" a base of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan in Koi Sanjaq, 60-kilometre from the border, killing a woman resident of the town and wounding three people, the party said in a statement.

Iran's official news agency IRNA said Iranian planes hit "joint concentration centres of counter-revolutionary agents" inside Iraq, but it did not elaborate on who they were.

"Smoke billowing from the burning munition depot and command headquarters of the counter-revolutionaries could be seen from miles away," IRNA said.

The agency said the planes returned safely after the operation, the second Iranian attack in four days on rebel groups based in Iraq.

On Sunday Iran fired at least three Scud missiles at the main base of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq opposition group 80 kilometres inside Iraq.

The Mujahedeen, which reported damage but no casualties in Sunday's raid, said Iranian planes tried to strike its bases on Wednesday but were driven back by anti-aircraft fire.

The group said on Tuesday that Sunday's missiles were fired from bases near Keremanshah.

The launching pads and nine ready-to-fire missiles remain in place at these locations," the Mujahedeen said.

adding that Tehran was preparing grounds for further attacks on the group.

Ali Safavi, a spokesman for the Mujahedeen based in Paris, said the warplanes struck the Kurds after failing to bomb the Mujahedeen base, whose anti-aircraft system was quickly activated.

The Kurdish statement described the attack as "intensive," despite the low casualty report. It gave no details of damage.

IRNA said the pilots reported accurate hits on the command headquarters, munition depot and centre of counter-revolutionaries.

The Kurdish statement said the base attacked was within the "no-fly" zone established by the U.S.-led allies after the 1991 Gulf war to protect the Kurdish population from Iraqi attacks.

Iranian warplanes attacked Kurdish bases in Iraq in July last year.

The attack on the Kurds was unlikely to draw Iraqi retaliation, because both Baghdad and Tehran have been fighting against the Kurdish minorities which have for decades sought autonomy in their provinces.

Iran had claimed that the Mujahedeen recently had sent saboteurs from Iraq to western Iran in an attempt to sabotage oil pipelines and other installations.

That charge was cited by Tehran as the reason for Sunday's missile attack.

Tehran also blamed the Mujahedeen for two bomb blasts in impoverished southern Tehran neighbourhoods Tuesday in which the government said two people were killed.

The Mujahedeen denied

the accusation, saying the bombs had been planted by Iranian government agents to implicate the Mujahedeen and justify a new attack against them.

Iran, however, had made no recent charges against the Kurds and it was not clear what prompted Wednesday's attack.

Iran and Iraq fought the 1980-88 Gulf war, but the two countries have yet to sign a formal peace treaty.

One of the main obstacles for a treaty has been the presence of the Mujahedeen in Iraq, which Tehran wants stopped.

Since the August 1988 ceasefire, Iran has only twice sent its warplanes to bomb Mujahedeen's Ashraf camp in April 1992 again in May 1993.

Sunday's missile attack on the Mujahedeen drew sharp warnings from Baghdad that future infringement on its sovereignty would draw firm retaliation.

The official Baghdad press stepped up attacks on Iran on Wednesday with the government newspaper Al Jamhouriya calling Iranian rulers "the snakes of the Orient."

Al Jamhouriya accused Washington of encouraging Iran to destabilise the region by turning an eye on its military power at a time it was stripping Iraq of means to defend itself.

It complained that U.N. inspectors implementing U.N. Gulf war resolutions had scrapped Iraq's long-range missiles and it could no longer respond by striking deep inside Iran.

"Iraq will defend itself against Iranian aggression," declared the English-language Baghdad Observer.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday inaugurates the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery (left) and visits the Farah Hospital which His Majesty also opened on Wednesday (Petra photo)

King opens two major hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday opened two major medical facilities, the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery (ACHSS) and the Farah Hospital.

The ACHSS, a JD 25 million project set up by a small group, led by a Saudi Arabian businessman and several Jordanian businessmen, has been designed and equipped with "leading edge technology" and "advanced diagnostic, surgical and rehabilitation services," according to its director general, Daoud Hanania.

Originally, he said, the

centre was intended as a cardiac unit, but following the wish and advice of King Hussein, other surgical specialities were introduced.

According to Dr. Hanania, these include cardiology and cardiac surgery, thoracic and vascular surgery, general surgery, paediatric surgery, gynaecology, maternity, plastic and reconstructive surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, nephrology, genito-urinary surgery, ophthalmology, oral and maxillo-facial surgery, and ear, nose and throat specialities.

The 141-bed facility has

advanced laboratories, radiology and imaging devices, some of which are entirely new to Jordan, said Dr. Hanania, adding that its "hotel services" are "available to all people of various incomes."

"We also intend to have close affiliation with major centres in the U.S., such as the Harvard, Cleveland, Houston and Mayo facilities. We have already gone a long way in securing such affiliation and will hopefully connect with some of them by satellite telemedicine for the purpose of education and obtaining second opinions," Dr. Hanania said.

Also on Wednesday the King inaugurated the Farah maternity hospital and unveiled a commemorative plaque at the entrance of the complex.

Accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the King toured the hospital's sections.

Hospital Director Dr. Zeid Kilani presented a briefing on the hospital's programmes.

Attending the opening ceremony were Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Health Minister Aref Batayneh and the King's advisor Mohammad Rasoul Kilani.

Jordan mends ties with Gulf after Israeli treaty

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Peace with Israel is also taking a four-year chill out of Jordan's relations with Gulf Arab states.

Bahraini Minister of State Ibrahim Al Mutawae, who arrived on Tuesday, is the most senior official the emirate has sent since Amman's stand in the 1990-91 crisis over Kuwait drove a wedge between Jordan and Gulf states.

"We feel inter-Arab rifts are temporary," Mr. Mutawae said in an arrival statement. "The current phase is witnessing new openness and reconciliation."

Jordan also named a new ambassador to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, filling a post vacant since 1992.

Officials and diplomats say it is Amman's peacemaking with Israel, culminating in a treaty signed on Oct. 26, that has turned things around.

Taking part themselves in U.S.-led talks with Israel on secondary issues such as economic cooperation, the Gulf states are keen to play a role in shaping a future in which Arab-Israeli conflict will finally be over.

Jordan's new ties with Israel could make it a gateway to the Jewish state. Businessmen from other Arab countries have begun

flocking to Jordan to look for prospects.

Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates last month ended a 47-year boycott of firms that trade with Israel.

But they are unlikely to drop a direct economic boycott of Israel until there is an overall Arab consensus. Amman hopes the Gulf states will in return boost its economy with investment and absorb some of its unemployed in jobs from which they could send home much-needed foreign currency.

"The Gulf states would like to see what their role will be in the post-peace era,"

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said.

"They cannot sit on one side while things are happening in their neighbourhood," Dr. Anani added. "They want to be fully involved and they realise Jordan's role is very important."

With the exception of Kuwait, Jordan's ties with other Gulf states have improved dramatically. Amman's ties have been fully restored with Qatar while links with Oman were never harmed.

The UAE has invited Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali for a visit, the first such-level since the conflict.

Israel ready for W. Bank pullout over three months

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army is ready to redeploy on the West Bank in the coming months under a commitment to quicken the spread of Palestinian self-rule in a bid to shore up Yasser Arafat's ailing authority.

After months of delays, fears over the growing unpopularity of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader and his self-rule authority forced Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to forge ahead, ministers said Wednesday.

Economic distress, deepened by Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, was seen to jeopardise the very future of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"The political future of the Labour Party is linked to that of Arafat," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres warned.

As a result, Mr. Rabin decided to PLO demands to negotiate simultaneously on the deployment — to take place over three or nine months, according to Haaretz newspaper — and Palestinian elections. The talks are due to start in two weeks.

"If Arafat falls, the Labour government will fall with him," said Housing Minister Binjamin Ben Eliezer.

Palestinian Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath has met Israeli leaders to warn of the authority's difficulties.

A senior Israeli official said Dr. Shaath had been assured that the autonomy process "would soon take off and changes would be felt in the coming weeks."

Mr. Rabin announced Tuesday that Israel would devote power for health, taxation, social welfare and tourism on the West Bank to the PNA by the end of the month.

Since autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho last May, the Palestinians have been given charge only of education on the West Bank.

"Arafat is losing ground to the opponents of peace, so we had to make a gesture to strengthen him," said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

Mr. Rabin believes that negotiating with Mr. Arafat is a "strategic imperative" for Israel, the official said.

The prime minister even went against his army chief-of-staff General Ehud Barak who wanted to delay handing over civilian powers to the Palestinians to ensure greater safety for Jewish settlers.

Haaretz reported that the army had been working for several weeks on a "rapid operational redeployment" which would take troops out of built-up Palestinian areas in three months.

Troops would take up position around urban areas and along main roads to protect the more than 110,000 settlers on the occupied territory.

The nine-month plan would have the same results but would be carried out in several phases, Haaretz said. The main Palestinian towns are Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarem and Hebron, the last of which is rendered problematic by the presence of 450 Jews in the heart of the city of 120,000 Palestinians.

Haaretz said redeployment would cost the double of the redeployment on the Gaza Strip in May, or tens of millions of dollars.

20 cases diagnosed as cholera in Gaza Strip

GAZA (Agencies) — Twenty Palestinians have been taken to hospital with cholera which earlier killed a boy in the self-ruled Gaza Strip, the chief of health in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) said Wednesday.

"There are 20 positive cases of cholera. All the cases have been treated successfully with the exception of the little boy whom we lost. His sister is in intensive care," Dr. Riyad Al Zaoun told Reuters.

He said the disease, affecting five families, was caused locally and was not "a water-borne epidemic."

Dr. Zaoun said on Tuesday the PNA, the World Health Organisation, the Israeli health ministry and Egypt and Jordan were cooperating to stem the outbreak.

Israel banned imports of fruit and vegetables from the Gaza Strip, fearing contamination. Cholera is an infectious bacterial disease which can be carried by contaminated water and, if untreated, can kill within hours through dehydration.

Health ministry spokesman Abdul Jaber Al Tibi said

Gaza had been free of cholera for the last 13 years and that the sources of the bacteria had still not been identified.

An Israeli spokesman said: "Israel will supply antibiotics, injections and laboratory equipment for testing."

Health Minister Efraim Sneh telephoned his Palestinian counterpart on Wednesday and announced that the epidemic was "restricted to two homes and remained limited."

Most of the stricken families are from four areas of Gaza City where sanitary provisions are poor. One case was from the Maghazi refugee camp in the centre of the Strip.

Boaz Levy, deputy director at the Israeli health ministry, said cholera could be spread from fruit and vegetables grown in infected water.

Mr. Tibi said health officials were providing people linked with the cholera patients with preventive medication, and testing food and market produce.

Farmers in Gaza protested the ban, on which is costing them an estimated \$300,000 a

day in lost exports of tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers.

Mohammad Rayis, deputy director of Gaza's agriculture ministry, argued Israel was punishing all Gaza farmers instead of testing actual produce for signs of the disease.

"Now our farmers have nowhere to sell their produce," he said.

Israel's health ministry reported a number of attempts to smuggle meat, cheese and vegetables into the country. It said it confiscated and destroyed the food.

Officials worried that Gaza's badly serviced slums and refugee camps might be fertile ground for cholera to spread. Heavy rains last week left pools of stagnant water all over Gaza.

"The first case was in a house with 29 members. That shows you how much cramping there is. What frightens us is the poor infrastructure and housing," said Dr. Tibi, head of a committee set up to deal with the outbreak.

The late two-year-old's brother Na'el, 16, was the only one at home. The others were either in hospital or released and gone to relatives.

Saud discusses peace process in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad discussed the Arab-Israeli peace process with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, who flew in Wednesday on a previously unannounced visit.

Prince Saud Al Faisal told reporters at Damascus airport that he was carrying a message from King Fahd to Mr. Assad dealing with the peace negotiations and an Islamic summit conference to be held in Morocco next month. He gave no details.

Before heading for the meeting with President Assad, the prince met with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Al Sharaa. It was his third visit to Syria this year.

Saudi Arabia and its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — recently announced they were easing a boycott of firms dealing with Israel.

The six GCC states said they would no longer black-

list foreign companies that do business with Israel, but would maintain a ban on direct trade dealings until Israel signs peace treaties with its immediate Arab neighbours.

Saudi Arabia had criticised the GCC move on the grounds that easing such economic restraints stripped the Arabs of a bargaining chip in peace talks.

Although the Palestinians and Jordan have signed accords with Israel in the past year, the Syrian and

Lebanese tracks of the peace process remain deadlocked.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has said peace between Syria and Israel would take time but the problems between them were not large.

Mr. Mubarak was speaking to members of parliament from the ruling National Democratic Party.

Information Minister Sawat Al Sherif said: "President Mubarak said that the Syrian-Israeli agreement will take time but it is not a big problem."

'Peace Cooperative Society' announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hoping that the new era of peace in the Middle East might help them settle down, agricultural engineers have "christened" their newly-formed housing society as the Peace Cooperative Society for Housing, one of the founders, Awmi Sharif Shanabieh, told the Jordan Times Wednesday. Mr. Shanabieh said that he and his colleagues were hopeful that the "new era would be a prosperous one for all the peoples of the region."

Morocco opens liaison bureau in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Morocco on Wednesday became the first country to open a liaison bureau in the autonomous Gaza Strip. Palestinian officials voiced hope it was a first step to establishing an embassy in a future independent Palestinian state. Mohammad Abdul Salam Si Nasser presented his credentials to Yasser Arafat in a red-carpet ceremony, and read out a statement of greeting from King Hassan of Morocco. Under the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule agreement signed in Cairo on May 4, Israel remains in charge of foreign affairs and the bureau does not technically enjoy diplomatic status. Rabat's move was part of a deal last July which saw it take the first step towards full diplomatic ties with Israel by agreeing to set up a liaison bureau in Tel Aviv. Several European countries have established coordinating offices in the West Bank autonomous enclave of Jericho to deal with aid and bilateral relations with the Palestinians.

270,000 displaced by South Sudan fighting

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Fighting between rival guerrilla factions has displaced more than 270,000 people in South Sudan's Bahr Al Ghazal state, the government's relief commission chief has said. Mohammad Ahmad Al Aghbachi said discussions were planned between the commission and U.N. officials here to send a mission to assess the state of the homeless civilians, the government daily Al Sudan Al Hadith reported Wednesday. The clashes between rival wings of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are "affecting aid operations and forcing the population to seek refuge in towns and zones under government control," the paper said.

Iraq arrests nine Iranian fishermen

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iraqi authorities have arrested nine Iranian fishermen on their border in the southwest of the country, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Wednesday. The Iranians were seized Monday after their boat got stuck in mud in the banks of the Shatt Al Arab waterway because of "climatic changes," it said. An official in the city of Abadan, Khuzestan province, told IRNA that Iran had been working to free the men through legal and international channels. In April, Iraq accused Iran of seizing three of its fishermen and urged the United Nations to help free them.

Western Sahara vote is delayed

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Secretary General Boutros Ghali has postponed Western Sahara's self-determination referendum, scheduled for Feb. 14, mainly due to difficulties in identifying eligible voters. "It is clear that many months will be required to make sufficient progress in the identification process to be close to determining a date for the referendum," Dr. Ghali said in a report to the Security Council on Tuesday. Morocco and the Polisario Front claim sovereignty over Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony. The referendum has been postponed several times since 1992. Operations to identify and register voters for a self-determination referendum began Aug. 28, after numerous delays.

Norway helps Palestinian planning

AMMAN (J.T.) — Norwegian authorities and experts, in cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), are to build up a Palestinian central administration in Gaza and the West Bank, the Norwegian embassy here said Wednesday. Twelve Norwegians are to assist the Palestinians in the building of a directorate of planning which will cover the major parts of the Palestinian self-rule project, it said. Norway is giving \$11.5 million over a period of four years for this purpose. An agreement with the Palestinians was signed in Casablanca on Oct. 31. "This is a vital project for the construction/creation of the Palestinian society," the embassy said.

Column

Berlusconi is top earner in parliament

ROME (AFP) — Silvio Berlusconi, who founded the Fininvest group and burst on the political scene to become prime minister in the spring, earned 21.9 billion lire (\$13.7 million) last year, a parliamentary document showed Tuesday. This was the most of any member of parliament and was nearly three times the amount declared by the head of the Fiat group, Gianni Agnelli, a senator for life, who declared pre-tax income of 7.7 billion lire. During the summer Mr. Berlusconi came under severe public and parliamentary pressure to divest himself of his huge corporate business interests which comprise a media empire and he eventually agreed to put them under a complicated trustee arrangement. The basic monthly pay for an Italian member of parliament is 15 million lire. The list showed that two other ministers in the right-wing coalition government led by Mr. Berlusconi are rich men. Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti, who belongs to Berlusconi's Forza Italia movement, declared income of 2.3 billion lire. Defence Minister Cesare Previti, the coordinator of Forza Italia and a former lawyer for Fininvest, declared income of 1.3 billion lire. A member of parliament for the right-wing federalist Northern League, textile industrialist Francesco Miroglio, declared income of 5.6 billion lire.

Girl who cried 'Boo' shot by father

WEST MONROE, Louisiana (AFP) — A teenage girl who jumped out of a closet and shouted "Boo!" when her parents came home late was shot and killed by her own father, police said. Marilda Kaye Crabtree, 14, was supposed to be spending Saturday night at her friend's home but she and her friend decided to go to the Crabtrees' while the parents were away. No charges were brought against Robert Crabtree, 53, who heard noises when coming in the house and reached for his gun, a .357-caliber pistol loaded with hollow-point bullets. Marilda was shot in the neck and her last words to her father were reportedly: "I love you, Daddy." Chief Deputy Richard Fewell said the incident showed how scared people are in their homes these days.

Japan developing 450 kph high-speed train

TOKYO (AFP) — Central Japan Railway (JR Tokai) is currently developing a souped-up high-speed train capable of 450 kilometres per hour (297 miles per hour), which would make it the world's second fastest train after France's TGV. The Asahi Shimbun daily reported Tuesday. The railway company — which is to be privatised next year — confirmed the existence of the project, adding that the ultimate aim for the train, known as 300X, was a speed of "over 350 kph." The new bullet-train, or Shinkansen, will be 10 per cent lighter than "Nozomi," the latest model, and will be equipped with computer-controlled suspension for a smoother ride. The underside of the carriages will be completely streamlined to minimise noise, and the first train should be ready by the end of the year. The first dry run is slated for next May, and testing will last two years, to be carried out at night on a track in central Japan. Speed will be gradually stepped up in line with the test results.

Bono wins House seat

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AFP) — Sonny Bono, former second banana to his singing wife, Cher, and one-time mayor of Palm Springs, Tuesday won his second bid for a seat in Congress. Mr. Bono, a Republican, defeated Democrat Steve Clute in the 44th district, a desert area east of Los Angeles long held by retiring Republican Al McCandless. Mr. Bono, 59, worked his way up through nightclubs before he and ex-wife Cher starred in a successful television show, complete with their signature theme song, I Got You Babe.